1-1945

Sir Bernard Bourdillon Writes A Book Condemning The Practice Of Colour Bar

LONDON, May 11.—Sir Bernard Bourdillon, formerly Governor of Nigeria, has written a book condemning the colour bar, upholding British imperialism, advocating industrialization of Nigeria and exhorting his compatriots to be more Christian-like in their rule of colonial peoples.

The title of the book is "The Future of the Colonial Empire," and it is published in the Christian Looks Ahead series of the Student Christian Movement.

Compressed in 84 pages, the contents include an introductory chapter followed by: What is the Colonial Empire? What is Our Aim? What Have We Achieved So Far? What Are We Going to Do: Social, Economic, Political and Moral Problems? What Can We Do Personally?

In answer to the first question Sir Bernard says: "Thirty four units inhabited by 62 million people, most of them poor."

"Our aim," suggests Sir Bernard, "is to produce healthy, prosperous, educated and contented peoples, capable of playing their full part towards ensuring the welfare of the human race as a whole."

To answer the question of what had been achieved, Sir Bernard surveyed the history of colonial exploitation and then referred to the establishment of security of life and property, the educational work of missionaries, the building of hospitals, roads, railways, the improvement of crops, conservation of forests, and the promise of self government.

The chapter on political problems is illuminating because, here, Sir Bernard had the courage to indicate some of the flaws in the present executive and legislative institutions, criticising the wide powers of the Governor and the undemocratic nature of legislatures, where the Governor is not responsible to the people but to the Colonial Office.

In his opinion, an intensified programme of Africanization of the civil service is the only logical solution of the problem of personnel shortage in Africa.

Sir Bernard feels that colonial peoples must be more actively associated in the conduct of public affairs and criticises the system of nomination of unofficial members to the Legislative Council of Nigeria as being "open to grave objections," suggesting that "it should not be impossible to devise methods of indirect election which will secure that the unofficial members really do represent the people."

Morally challenging his people to practise what they preach, Sir Bernard cited the case of "a loyal and intelligent" Nigerian who was asked in 1940, if he would volunteer for service in the army and he replied, as follows:

"I am not disloyal, and I am not a coward; but when you came to my country you told us that inter-tribal wars were wrong, and you even punished people for taking part in them.

"Now, you are asking me to fight in your inter-tribal war!"

Sir Bernard thought that the doctrine of universal brotherhood of man was a challenge and Africans should be given an opportunity of accepting or rejecting Christianity on the basis of Christian ethics and practice.

In this connection he said that "The emergence of an African church, securely founded upon the teaching of Christ, but with its observances suited to local conditions, could do nothing but good."

The former Governor of Nigeria then called upon his folks to accept jobs in the colonies not on a "bread-and-butter" basis, but they should cultivate a missionary spirit so as to secure "that spirit of friendly co-operation between ourselves and the colonial peoples."

On the colour bar, Sir Bernard was definitely critical and he warned his people that the darker races resented being treated like inferiors; in his opinion the solution "is to acquire that human sympathy which completely wipes out all feelings of class and colour."

He admits that one reason of his success as a colonial administrator was because his wife had cultivated "human sympathy and quite exceptional lack of all sense of class or colour."

Bibliography

In conclusion Sir Bernard says rightly that, "History . . . . will give us high marks" when British imperialism is compared with other imperialisms.

JOURNALISM IN BRITISH WEST AFRICA (2)

SEVEN daily newspapers and weeklies are published in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria as follows:

OLDEST DAILY

(1) The Nigerian Daily Times is the oldest daily newspaper in Nigeria, having been founded in 1926.

Its circulation is estimated at 5,000.

It is printed and published by the Nigerian Printing and Publishing Company Limited at 112 Broad Street (P. O. Box 139, Telephone 392), Lagos.

Its Editor is Mr Ayo Lijadu.

Its Chairman is Mr Adeyemo Alakija, Barrister-at-Law.

BIGGEST DAILY

(2) West African Pilot (founded in November, 1937) has a reputed circulation of 14,000.

It is printed and published by Zik's Press Limited at 34 Commercial Avenue, Yaba Estate (P. O. Box 573; Telephone 490), Lagos.

Its Managing Editor is Mr Collins Ulric Maximillian Gardner, Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

Its Chairman and Managing Director is Mr Nnamdi Azikiwe, M.A., M.Sc. (Pennsylvania), Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

THE EAST

(3) Eastern Nigeria Guardian (founded in January, 1940) has a claimed circulation of 3,500.

It is printed and published by the Zik's Press Limited at 37 Aggrey Road (P. O. Box 2; Telephone 166), Port Harcourt.

Its Managing Editor is Mr Mobolaji Odunewu, Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

DAILY SERVICE

(4) The Daily Service (founded in June, 1940) whose sub-title is: "Official Organ of the Nigerian Youth Movement," has a circulation which is alleged to be 10,000.

It is printed and published by the Service Press Limited at 5 & 7 Apongbon Street, Olowogbowo (Telephone 855), Lagos.

Its Managing Editor is Mr S L. Akintola.

Its Chairman is Dr Akinola Maja, M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), medical practitioner and Chairman of the National Bank of Nigeria, Limited.

NIGERIAN SPOKESMAN

(5) Nigerian Spokesman (founded in March, 1943) has a reputed circulation of 2,000.

It is printed and published by Zik's Press Limited at Nwayobuije Villa, New Market Road (P. O. Box 46), Onitsha.

Its Managing Editor is Mr George Mbadiwe, Junior Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

LATEST DAILY

(6) Southern Nigeria Defender (founded in July, 1943) is the latest addition to Nigerian journalism.

It has a circulation which is estimated at 2,500.

It is printed and published by the Zik's Press Limited at Mowoe Building, Warri-Sapele Road (P. O. Box 13), Warri.

Its Managing Editor is Mr Adolphous Kofi Blankson, Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

YOUNGEST EDITOR

(7) The Comet was founded in 1931 as a weekly, it became a daily in 1944 and its circulation is estimated at 3,000.

It is published by the Comet Press Limited, at 19 Custom Street (P. O. Box 843; Telephone 627), Lagos.

Its Editor is Mr Anthony Enahoro, Junior Member of the Institute of Journalists, London, who is the youngest editor in British West Africa, being only 22 years.

Its Chairman is Duse Mohamed Ali, B.A. (Effendi).

OLDEST WEEKLY

(1) Yoruba News is the oldest weekly paper published in Nigeria having been founded in 1925.

Its circulation is estimated at 1,000 and it is bi-lingual (Yoruba and English).

It is printed and published weekly by the Ilare Press, at Ibadan.

Its Proprietor and Editor up till Thursday, May 17, 1945, was the late D. O. Obasa (now purchased by the Service Press Limited).

VERNACULAR PRESS

(2) The Akede Eko was founded in 1928 and it is also bi-lingual (Yoruba and English).

Its circulation is claimed to be 3,000.

It is printed at Tika-Tore Press, Market Street, Lagos, and published weekly at 116 Igbosere Road, Lagos.

Its Proprietor and Managing Editor is Mr Isaac Babalola Thomas.

ENITONNA PRESS

(3) The Nigerian Observer was founded in 1930 and it has a circulation reputed to be 2,000.

MONROVIA.—Paramount Chief Dauda Murray died recently and is mourned by is relatives and friends.

VOICE OF THE EAST

(4) The Nigerian Eastern Mail was founded in 1935 and its circulation is stated to be 4,000.

It is printed and published weekly by the Henshaw Press, at Cobham Street (P. O. Box 57), Calabar.

Its Editor is Mr J. V. Clinton, B.A. (Cantab.), Barrister at-Law.

Its Proprietor is Mr C. W. Clinton, Barrister-at-Law.

"TRUTH"

(5) Gaskiya Ta Fi Kwabo ("Truth") was founded in 1939.

Its circulation is claimed to be 17,000, and it is published in Hausa language, fortnightly.

It is printed at the Government Press, Kaduna, and published under the auspices of the Literature Bureau (Telephone 66), Zaria (now to be taken over by a state concern called the Gaskiya Corporation).

EGBA VOICE

(6) The Abeokuta Herald is a bi-lingual (Yoruba and English) with a circulation estimated at 1,000.

It is printed and published by the Bosere Printing Works at Abeokuta.

Its Proprietor and Editor is Mr S. G. A. Sowande (now purchased by Zik's Press Limited).

ABA OPINION

(7) The Nigerian Herald was founded in 1942 and has a circulation of 1,000.

It is printed and published by Mr W. Coulson Labor (P. O. Box 143; Telephone 54), at 26 Asa Road, Aba.

This gives Nigeria a combined newspaper circulation of 69,000 out of a population of 22,000,000.

INSIDE STUFF By "ZIK"

JOURNALISM IN BRITISH WEST AFRICA (1)

WORLD-WIDE interest in the practice of journalism in British West Africa was created by the visit to England, of a delegation of West African journalists, at the invitation of the British Council in 1943.

Despite the attempts of directories, like the Newspaper Directory, Willing's Press Guide, the Advertiser's Annual, etc., no effort has been made to bring up to date a fairly reliable datum which is capable of being used as an index to assess the value and influence of the commercial press of British West Africa.

I propose in this article to satisfy the need in certain respects.

British West Africa constitutes the Colonies and Protectorates of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Nigeria.

BIG CIRCULATIONS

These four Dependencies have a total area of 496,439 square miles with a combined population of about 30 million, thus giving them a just claim as comprising one-half of the British Colonial Empire.

In view of the appalling illiteracy of a preponderating majority of the people, the building of big circulations among the newspapers of this part of the globe is incomparable to what obtains in other parts of the world.

There is an exception to this statement, in India, despite its teeming population of over 300 million, the highest circulation figure reported there is 75,000, whilst in West Africa it is 14,000.

If the above figures are analytically examined, it is obvious that there may be more newspaper readers, per person, in British West Africa than in India, the disparity in the populations of the two countries notwithstanding.

It should be admitted that, like West Africa, 95 per cent of the Indian population is illiterate, although India has more higher educational institutions, quantitatively and qualitatively, compared to West Africa.

THE GAMBIA

Three weekly newspapers are published in the Gambia, all at Bathurst, its capital, as follows:

(1) Gambia Outlook and Senegambian Reporter is the oldest paper published in the country.

As far as can be ascertained, its circulation is said to be 2,000.

It is printed and published at 4 Allen Street, by its Proprietor and Editor, The Honourable E. F. Small, Member of the Gambia Legislative Council and Chairman of the Gambia Trades Union Movement.

(2) Gambia Echo has a reputed circulation of 3,000.

It is printed and published by the Gambia Echo Newspaper Syndicate, at 3 Leman Street (P. O. Box 148).

Its Editor is Mr C. W. Downes Thomas, Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

(3) Gambia Weekly News is the latest addition to Gambia journalism and its circulation is said to be 1,000.

It is printed and published at 11 Hopkinson Street.

Its Proprietor and Editor is Mr Finden Daley.

This gives the Gambia a combined newspaper circulation of 6,000 out of a population of 200,000.

SIERRA LEONE

Two daily newspapers and two weekly periodicals are published in Sierra Leone, all in Freetown, its capital, as follows:

(1) The Sierra Leone Daily Mail is the oldest daily paper in the country.

Its circulation is claimed to be 3,000 and it is printed and published by the Elsiemay Printing Works at 28 Howe Street (P. O. Box 53).

Its Proprietor is Mr T. J. D. Thompson, B.A. (Dunelm), Barrister at-Law.

Its Editor is Mr Laminah Sankoh, M.A., B.Litt. (Oxon.).

(2) The Daily Guardian has a circulation which is said to be 1,000.

It is printed and published at 6 Percival Street.

Its Proprietor and Managing Editor is Mr J. Fowell Boston, B.A., LL.B (London), Barrister at-Law.

(3) The Sierra Leone Weekly News is the oldest weekly published in the country.

Its circulation is believed to be 1,000.

It is printed and published by the Proprietress Mrs May at 2 Oxford Street.

Its Editor is Mr M. C. Marke, B. A., Barrister-at-Law.

(4) The African Standard is the latest addition to Sierra Leone journalism, and its subtitle is: "Official Journal of the West African Youth League (Sierra Leone Section)."

Its circulation is reputed to be 3,000 and it is printed and published weekly by the Wayl's Printing Press, at 7 Trelawney Street (P. O. Box 333).

Its Proprietor and Editor is Mr Wallace Johnson.

This gives Sierra Leone a combined newspaper circulation of 8,000 out of a population of 1,800,000.

THE GOLD COAST

Four daily newspapers and three weeklies are published in the Gold Coast, as follows:

(1) The African Morning Post is the oldest daily paper in the Gold Coast, having been founded in December 1934.

Its circulation is alleged to be 4,000.

It is printed and published by the City Press Limited at S395 B7 Pagan Road (P. O. Box 217; Telephone 431), Accra.

Its Editor is Mr George Hughes.

Its Chairman and Managing Director is Mr A. M. Akiwumi, M.A., LL.B. (Cantab), Barrister-at-Law.

(2) The Daily Echo has a circulation claimed to be 4,000.

It is printed and published by the Independent Press Limited at 10 Granville Avenue (P. O. Box 221; Telephone 215), Accra.

Its Editor-in-Chief is Mr Daniel George Tackie.

Its Chairman and Managing Director is Dr F. V. Nanka-Bruce, M.B., Ch.B. (Edinburgh), medical practitioner

(3) The Daily Spectator was transformed from a weekly periodical (founded in 1927) into a daily in 1939.

Its circulation is reputed to be 6,000.

It is printed and published by the City Press Limited at Accra.

Its Editor-in-Chief is Mr Robert Benjamin Wuta-Ofei, Member of the Institute of Journalists, London.

(4) The Ashanti Pioneer is the latest addition to Gold Coast journalism and its circulation is said to be about 2,000.

It is printed and published by the Abura Printing Works at (P. O Box 325), Kumasi.

THE WEEKLIES

(5) The Gold Coast Independent is the oldest weekly in the Gold Coast having been founded since 1918.

Its circulation is claimed to be 3 000.

It is printed and published by the Independent Press Limited.

Its Editor-in-Chief is Mr D. G. Tackie.

(6) The Star of West Africa has a circulation supposed to be 1,000.

It is printed and published by the Gold Coast and Ashanti Printing and Publishing Company Limited at 1 Bruce Street (Topp Yard), Cape Coast.

Its Chairman and Managing Editor is Mr S. R. Wood, Hon. Secretary of the Gold Coast Aborigines Rights Protection Society, Axim.

I understand that, for the duration of the war, this periodical has suspended publication since the company has transferred its plant and machinery, voluntarily, to the military authorities.

(7) The Gold Coast Observer has a circulation said to be 2,000.

It is printed and published by Observer Printing and Publishing Company at (P. O. Box 36), Cape Coast.

Its Proprietor is Mr C. Haffron-Benjamin, LL.B., (London), Barrister-at-Law.

This gives the Gold Coast a combined newspaper circulation of 21,000 out of a population of 4,000,000.

No Attraction in Liberia for Tan GI's, Says Native

AFRO-American - Balt, Md. 4-21-45

MONROVIA, Liberia—(ANP)—Only a few, if any, colored American soldiers will settle in Liberia after the war, P. H. D. Sherman, a prominent Liberian, said in a recent article entitled "Charity Begins at Home."

Declaring that the country has no attraction for tan Yanks, Mr. Sherman suggested a ten-year program based on a rigid compulsory education plan as a basis of a national development program.

Nothing to Offer

"Migration is tantamount to the absolute abandonment of one's native land for a place which can afford you better conditions than those of your previous home," he said. 4-21-45

"What have we to offer immigrants? An undeveloped and depopulated forest, the inhabitants of which have taken refuge in neighboring colonies?

Can't Pay Living Wage

"There is none among the colored U.S. soldiers who has been on these shores for quite a month who has a desire to live in Liberia," he declared.

"They will not tell this to the opposite sex, whom it is their desire to fool. Unless compelled, which they will not be, you will hardly find any of them on our soil when they are released from the Army.

"Those who are looking forward to their flocking here are sadly mistaken. We are not prepared to pay living wages in this country."

Liberia Holds No Attraction For American

Informer - 4-21-45 Houston, Texas

MONROVIA, Liberia — (ANP — "There is none among the colored U. S. soldiers who has been on these shores for quite a month who has a desire to live in Liberia."

That statement was made recently by P.H.D. Sherman, a prominent Liberian, in an article on "Charity Begins at Home."

Sherman advised his fellow countrymen to "do your bucket where you are" while pointing out the handicaps immigrants to Liberia will encounter. He hit the newspapers constant cry of "we need immigrants." 4-21-45

Migration is tantamount to the absolute abandonment of one's native land for a place which can afford you better conditions than those of your previous home, he said. What have we to offer immigrants? he asked. An undeveloped and depopulated forest, the inhabitants of which have taken refuge in neighboring colonies?

Sherman suggested a 10 year program for the nation that would be based upon a rigid, vigorous and compulsory educational plan as the basis of a national development program. He warned Liberians that their country holds no attraction for American colored soldiers.

"There is none among the colored U. S. soldiers who has been on these shores for quite a month who has a desire to live in Liberia," he declared. "They will not tell this to the opposite sex, whom it is their desire to fool. Unless compelled, which they will not be, you will hardly find any of them on our soil when they are released from the army.

Lester Walton To Quit

Kansas City/Mo. The Call 6-15-45

St. Louisan to Be Replaced by Another Negro

By ERNEST E. JOHNSON

WASHINGTON. — (ANP) — Lester A. Walton, for 10 years American minister of the Republic of Liberia, will be replaced by another Negro, it is learned in official quarters.

Walton's resignation from that position was handed in to President Truman as a precedural matter when the latter took office on April 12. Its acceptance will probably be announced along with other changes which are expected to be made in the foreign service.

Just who will be his successor has not yet been disclosed but it is learned authoritatively that the names of at least two Negroes are now under consideration. That such a change would have been made even had the late President Roosevelt lived is believed accurate, according to these same sources. 6-15-45

To Africa in 1935

Walton, a former Republican and son-in-law of the late Fred R. Moore, for years a Republican member of the old board of aldermen an publisher of the New York Age, was appointed minister to the West African republic in 1935.

He is credited with having done much toward cementing closer relations between the two countries. It was Walton who initiated negotiations for the American government the terms under which United States soldiers would be allowed to base in Liberia. The defense agreement was concluded in March, 1942, and the first contingent of soldiers, the 44th engineers, landed there two months later.

Returns to U. S. 6-15-45

For a time after this Walton was in the United States and the work of the legation was carried on by the late Frederick P. Hibbard, charge d'affairs. When the former Liberian president, Edwin Barclay, received President Roosevelt following the Casablanca conferences Walton was here, and when Barclay made his official visit to the states in May, 1942, Walton had returned to Monrovia. 6-15-45

He had, through a quirk of circumstances, missed out on two celebrated occasions. It was Hibbard who had accompanied the visiting dignitary on his American tour and who negotiated the lend-lease agreement between the two countries that June.

Walton nevertheless is credited with having pushed the construction of the seaport in Liberia by the U. S. navy, a responsibility which this government was shown would be of immense value mutually. This work is now under way. 6-15-45

When he returned here last fall, Walton was not at all well. For a time he remained hospitalized even before reporting to the state department. He told his reporter at the time that he was doubtful that he would return to his post. As his health improved, however, his viewpoint changed. He was given an extended leave and was with his family in New York for Christmas. He returned to Liberia in January.

That consideration should be given to a Negro, for the post is in pursuance of a long tradition that a Negro should serve as minister. At the present time Liberia does not have a diplomatic representative here, but this situation is expected to be altered shortly, it is understood.

Given Post Of Liberian N. Y. Consul

N.Y. Amsterdam News 6-16-45

Frederick A. Price, Noted Eudactor and Church Leader, Succeeds Walter F. Walker

Frederick A. Price, church leader and educator for forty years in Liberia, West Africa, has been appointed Liberian Consul-general at New York as of May 24, when he arrived in the United States from Monrovia. 6-16-45

Mr. Price succeeds Walter F. Walker, who has been appointed to the Liberian Cabinet by President William V. S. Tubman as secretary of Public Works and Utilities. He was born in Barbados, West Indies, and is a naturalized Liberian citizen.

The new Liberian consul-general is well known in the United States, having visited the country on several occasions. The office of the Consulate is 25 Beaver Street.

Although Mr. Price would not make a statement regarding Liberia's diplomatic relations with the United States, he said that all indications point to the early opening of a Liberian Legation in Washington.

Radio Programme For Troops In Middle East Will Feature Works Of A Nigerian Composer

West African Pilot 4-28-45

Lagos, Africa

According to an official statement, listeners in the Middle East will shortly be hearing programmes featuring the works of Mr A. B. David, the well-known Nigerian composer of 54, Queen Street, Yaba, which were recorded recently for broadcast to the Nigerian troops overseas.

Mr David, the statement adds, brought his own party to the studio in Lagos and all songs — words and music — which he put on were his own work.

He was soloist in four items "Adolf Hitler Mass," "Sensen Layo," "Jijajija Ki Roro" and "Oba Ahaswerusi," being accompanied on the organ by Mr Akinremi Cole, assistant organist at the Tinubu Methodist Church.

The programme was one of a series produced and announced by Mr Charles Milner-Haigh, of the Public Relations Office, each week for broadcast to Nigerian troops overseas. 4-28-45

These programmes are recorded in Lagos, but others are done on tours specially organised by the Public Relations Office in the Protectorate.

They are broadcast three times weekly from Cairo for the Middle East Forces, and from Delhi for the troops in India and Burma.

The programmes prepared in Lagos consist of both music and news.

The music is by a different band or party each week but the news readers do not change.

At present they are Mr Fola Sapara (English scripts), Mr E. E. Ekanem (Efik), Mr James Arimah (Ibo) and Mr Josiah Adegunwa (Yoruba). 4-28-45

Captain J. Stocker, the Army Public Relations Officer in this area, is shortly to leave on another tour of the Protectorate to make recordings for broadcast of music and messages from chiefs and relatives to their men overseas.

The technicians who work on the programmes are Corporal Robert Catlow and his assistant Corporal Phillip Lewis, both of REME.

Before joining the Army, Corporal Catlow was with the BBC in London.

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (39)

"The Nigerian strike is not a symptom — it is a disease: Africa is sick of the Colonial Office"

"COLONIAL AFRICA, THROUGH NIGERIA, HAS HIT BACK"

Quoting extensively from an editorial in the Gold Coast Observer (Cape Coast), which, in a soul stirring language, grieved bitterly for the political and economic impotence of African subject peoples, Zik today continues to illustrate the cosmopolitan attitude with which the Gold Coast press regarded the June 1945 General Strike in Nigeria.

THAT in going on strike, the Nigerian workers are fighting for the whole of Africa hitting back against a policy of exploitation and poverty is the view of the Gold Coast Observer (Cape Coast) expressed in vigorous terms in the following editorial:

REPLY OF AFRICA

The strike in Nigeria is the reply of colonial Africa to the economic policy of the Colonial Office.

The Nigerian strike is not a symptom — it is a disease: Africa is sick of the Colonial Office.

It is sick of the Colonial Office declaring that its policy is to use and treat humanity in Africa as raw material for garnering the wealth of rich capitalists in Britain.

You will not find that declaration written up in so many words by any spokesman of the colonial or of British imperialists.

COCOA CONTROL

But you will find the declaration clearly stated in the plainest possible language in the Colonial Office publication and in a certain recent announcement by the Governor of Nigeria.

During the war years the Colonial Office had occasion to control the purchase and sale of West African cocoa.

The Colonial Office, or the British Ministry of Food, through the Produce Control Board, fixed the prices to be paid to us West Africans for producing cocoa from our own soil, from our own labour, and from our own industry.

PRICE FIXATION

But the Colonial Office did not give West African producers the market prices that they should or could have got for their cocoa in America and elsewhere.

They fixed prices they themselves liked and those were the prices that were paid to our people.

The prices so fixed were generally low, much lower, than could have been obtained.

Last year the Colonial Office, in White Paper Cmd. 6554, explained the reason why.

The reason they gave was the strangest ever swallowed in this strange Africa.

TOO MUCH MONEY

They said they will not want to pay a high price for our produce because they did not want our producers to have too much money.

They thought it was enough for us to have a little money for our produce, although the markets of the world were prepared to pay much greater for it.

And they say they did that because, and here is what hurts the African, they did that because there were not enough goods in the British stores in our country upon which we could spend the money given us in exchange for our produce.

HAND TO MOUTH

In other words, the policy of the Colonial Office is this:

"You Africans have to produce goods, raw materials..

"We Europeans have to produce goods, manufactured articles.

"We Europeans will buy your raw materials.

"You Africans must use the money paid for your raw materials in buying the manufactured goods in our European stores.

"That is all we are here for, economically, to take your goods, pay you for them and to take the money back from you in our shops.

PRODUCE AND SELL

"It is not our policy to let you Africans have any extra money in your hand after you have got our money and you have spent it in the stores.

"Every penny you get, so long as we can help it, must come back to us.

"It may be that in the end you get nothing much for it, except cotton prints and a few odds and ends but these cotton prints are made to last you for a certain number of months only, and you will have to come and buy from us.

"All you have to do is to produce and sell.

"All we have to do is to buy and sell to you.

"And in the end there is no balance over the trade with you, nothing left in your hand."

BUNK OF INFLATION

This, perhaps, is putting the thing in too plain a language; but in whatever flamboyant language it is put, it comes to the same thing in reality for us poor helpless Africans.

The Colonial Office had an economic name for the whole process.

They said if they gave us Africans too much money whilst there were not enough consumer goods in the stores, because of war shortages, there would be an inflation.

And the Governor of Nigeria is reported to have said the same thing to the people of Nigeria.

He is reported to have told them that it was futile or useless increasing their pay, not because they did not deserve more for the work they do, but because the money given to them would be unused in their hands, there being no consumer goods in the shops upon which to spend the money.

NO USE FOR MONEY

The whole idea, the Colonial Office idea, is, of course, that Africans ought to have no use for money except for the purchase of goods in British or European stores.

They do not seem to think, for instance, that Africans ought to have plenty of money with which to give their children an education above what they had obtained themselves.

They do not think, for instance, that Africans ought to have plenty of money with which to create their own industries and save themselves the trouble of having to order even matches and needles and boot brushes from Britain.

NIGERIAN LEATHER

It is known that the best leather in all the world comes from Nigeria, but the Colonial Office policy would rather have it that the best leather goods should be made in Britain or elsewhere not certainly in Nigeria.

Every sensible economist would tell you that a "nation" can never rise to the height of a first class manufacturing country, or industrial country, unless it has IDLE money.

Idle money is money that is not wanted for the day to day needs of life.

It is the money that one can go to races with, the money that one can invest with, speculate with, take risks with, money that you can properly spare in a risky venture in the hope that it may or may not bring you return.

NO IDLE MONEY

Africans are accused of not being enterprising.

But Africans have not often been reminded that they had never been allowed by the economic policy of their rulers to possess any kind of capital idle money.

All the money in their hands have had to make do with life — to make the two ends meet.

The African, the Colonial Office policy seems to say, must live from hand to mouth.

No money to save; no money to be idle in his hands with which to embark upon capital enterprises.

That is the whole trouble.

AFRICA IS LEARNING

That is the truth that the Colonial Office and the Governor of Nigeria, out of a British candour, have at last blurted out.

We must thank Britain for the knowledge and we must thank the people of Nigeria for having it back so timely and so effectively.

The strike is to teach Africa to learn.

It is intended to remind Africans that their nomic condition is thoro dis-eased, sick to the and unless they are to start thinking all over again, they will continue to be sick, and diseased and poverty stricken because their lot is to live from hand to mouth.

OUR GREATEST PROBLEM

Nothing to save, but everything to spend.

Nothing to lie idle for enterprises, but everything to be used up in feeding the mouth and clothing the body with printed cotton from abroad.

That is our lot.

That is our greatest problem.

That is the answer to those who say we must have money first before we talk of our right to control our affairs.

The trouble is, he who has the power now, being wise will see to it that you always have enough to clothe your body and fill your stomach, but nothing idle besides.

POLITICAL POWER

To get that power into your hands, there is only one way of doing it.

Get it.

If even it means selling your mother to get it, get it, for as the Akan proverb goes: "If you hear of power being sold, sell your mother to go to buy that power.

"Afterwards, with power in your hand, you will take your mother back."

The way to get power in a colonial possession, is to keep on telling the British people that you want that power, that you believe you are fit for it, and that it is your right, and you must have it.

Talk of education and economics first isn't sense at all.

To go for power that way is never to get it, except as a "dash."

AFRICA HITS BACK

Africa, colonial Africa, through Nigeria, has hit back.

Colonial Office having now been told the truth, rejects it, and the people of Nigeria have not minced their words about it.

Let us hope that wiser counsel will prevail and that odious policy changed, now and for aye.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (27)

The circumstances leading to the ban placed on the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet can now be told

HERE SEQUENCE OF DATES IS MATERIAL

The interview granted a press reporter by PRO D. C. Fletcher, the meeting held in Government House between some high officials and certain press men, during which meeting Mr Fletcher remained a Turkish mute, and the subsequent banning of the Pilot and Comet, are all connected with mysterious circumstances, which will continue to justify suspicions until they are abundantly clarified.

NOW it can be told!

Sir Philip Gibb wrote a book after the World War I and gave it such a title.

Although I may not be a Sir Philip, yet I can say in the same breath that the history of the circumstances leading to the placing of the ban on the Pilot and the Comet can now be told.

SEQUENCE OF DATES

To appreciate the significance of this story, the sequence of dates is very material.

On Wednesday, July 4, the new Defence Regulations were enacted in camera, giving the Governor arbitrary powers to decide whether a false statement or allegation or criticism had been published and to penalise any person contravening such law.

On Thursday, July 5, the Public Relations Officer granted an interview to a Reporter of the Pilot in the morning; in the evening he called attention of the Editor to the law which was made on Wednesday and which had just been published in an extraordinary issue of the Nigeria Gazette of even date.

On Saturday, July 7, the Nigeria Review which was published by the Public Relations Officer suspended publication temporarily.

On Saturday, July 7, the editors and managers of the Pilot and the Comet were requested to present themselves in the Government House to appear before the Officer Administering the Government.

On Sunday, July 8, the OAG prohibited the two newspapers from publication indefinitely and at his pleasure.

OUR OWN STORY

I will now narrate all the relevant incidents of this strange story, from the point of view of the two newspapers.

On Thursday, July 5, according to the Editor of the Pilot, Mr Fletcher (the PRO) rang him up on the telephone asking him to send a reporter because he had some "hot" news for his paper.

A Reporter (Mr J. G. Cookey) waited on the PRO who was alleged to have said that "the present crisis has proved the incapability and inefficiency of the Nigerian trades union leaders, in that they have failed woefully to guide their members along the right lines, with the result that they find themselves where they are today."

Mr Fletcher was alleged to have assured the Reporter that these criticisms he was making against the trades union leaders would be published under the "Fiat Veritas" columns of the Nigeria Review of Saturday, July 7

Mr Cookey took down notes in pencil and after showing same to Mr Fletcher, the latter read it and nodded his approval.

On Friday, July 6, the report of the interview appeared in the Pilot and the questionable manner.

We pleaded that he should exercise leniency and that we were prepared to publish the correct facts.

Throughout the interview, Mr Fletcher sat mute like an Egyptian sphynx and never uttered a syllable either to affirm or to deny what the OAG had alleged that he did.

The next day, an order prohibiting the publication of both papers was made.

THAT IS OUR CASE

That is the story of the ban on the Pilot and the Comet, as we see it.

We cannot think of any thing so contemptible as to believe that a frame-up was made in order to endanger the existence of our business, but in the absence of any positive evidence, the best we can do is to dismiss such and idea and to be more chary in the future in our dealings with any person, black or white, official or unofficial.

Naturally, we were left in a frame of mind that "Authority intoxicates and makes men mere sorts of magistrates."

As for Mr Fletcher, history will be the arbiter of what part he played, and whether it was a noble or ignoble example of what a representative of a trustee race should or should not be.

NOT LUCID ENOUGH

I might mention that on July 14, the PRO published in the Lagos press the following notice: "The Public Relations Officer regrets that owing to the strike it was impossible to publish the Nigeria Review on June 30th and July the 7th."

In the light of the foregoing, it is obvious that the bare statement of the PRO, couched as it is in official lingo, is unintelligible and confusing.

Mendacity or equivocation lurks somewhere in that vague and ambiguous statement.

Could not the PRO have worded his notice thus: "The Public Relations Officer regrets that owing to the strike it was impossible to print and publish the Nigeria Review....."?

This statement is lucid enough for it removes any taint of ambiguity and equivocation.

After all, it is the PRINTING (and not the publishing) of the Nigeria Review that is relevant to the strike.

A clarification of the mystery enshrouding the issue of Comet (the two papers are members of the Associated Newspapers of Nigeria and they share their news services on a co-operative basis) and Mr Fletcher never questioned publicly the accuracy of the news.

On the same date, in his "Facts About The Strike: Bulletin No. 11," Mr Fletcher published the following: "The former officers of the Government Press Union have been re-elected by the staff of the department and workers recommenced work on July 5, as a properly disciplined staff with a regularly constituted body of officers to direct their union."

On Saturday, July 7, when Mr Cookey went to obtain a copy of the Nigeria Review of that date, so as to compare notes with what Mr Fletcher

had promised him, he was told by Mr Fletcher that the printing had not been completed, but he was given a copy of the Nigeria Review Supplement of that date.

At 2.15 p m. of that date, I received a letter from Mr Fletcher again summoning me and the Editor of the Pilot to appear before the OAG in the Government House at 3 p.m. — i. e., only 45 minutes notice.

When we reached Government House and were ushered before Sir Gerald Whiteley, we saw him flanked by the Chief Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Public Relations Officer.

The Acting Governor looked serious although he appeared worried.

He did not shake hands, he simply greeted us curtly and asked us to sit down.

He said that we had published incorrect allegations which in his opinion were seditious.

He wanted to know if we had anything to say before he proceeded to exercise his absolute discretion?

We told him that the circumstances were extenuating, in view of the sequence of events and also bearing in mind that Mr Fletcher is a head of department who cannot be expected to act in a tne Nigeria Review of Saturday, July 7, is necessary in order to avoid needless suspicions.

Admitting, for the sake of argument, that it was not published, as alleged by the PRO, it does not necessarily follow that it was not printed; therein lies the crux of the problem.

Time, the avenger of all forms of machination, will yet vindicate the true circumstances of the dialogue between Mr Fletcher and Mr Cookey.

One of them must be lying barefacedly and shamelessly.

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (55)

Victimisation of ex-strikers continued with lock-outs and demotions in towns like Port Harcourt, Kano and Lagos

Lagos, Nigeria

AGAIN RAILWAY TOOK THE CAKE WITH PWD FOLLOWING

West African Pilot

At Port Harcourt, the Railway workers lodged complaints with the Resident concerning a lock-out of ex-strikers, but the Resident dismissed their case as false; there were also demotions in the Public Works Department and the Lagos Town Council according to the reports of the workers of those establishments.

(5) LOCK-OUTS

Workers at Port Harcourt and Kano also alleged that when they returned to work, after the strike, they were locked out by the Railway authorities.

The Resident of Owerri Province discounted this news and branded it as false without making any attempt to disprove the allegation.

The Railway workers at Port Harcourt re-stated their charges and called upon the Resident to make further investigations.

The following is a gist of this interesting debate.

PORT HARCOURT

11-23-45 LOCK-OUT

One Mr Sharp, District Traffic Superintendent of the Nigerian Railway, at Port Harcourt, was reported to have told the returning workers that since essential services were being maintained they should go back and wait until they were required.

The workers went to the Resident and explained to him that Mr Sharp's orders were at variance with the terms of armistice of the strike. 11-23-45

The Resident and the Local Authority assured the workers not to be worried because they would be paid, as from the date the strike was called off and that arrangements would be expedited to enable them to resume their work.

The spokesmen of the workers thanked the Resident and the interview ended.

That was on Friday, August 9, 1945.

RESIDENT DENIES LOCK-OUT

In the meantime, the Federated Union of Railwaymen complained that Mr Sharp still locked them out and asserted that the action of this Railway official was very provocative. 12-23-45

The Resident wrote a letter to the federation indicating that the statement that "there was a complete lock-out" on August 9, was "a complete falsehood."

He reiterated the discussions with him at the interview and added that "It was only to be expected that after a stoppage of two months certain preliminary work would have to be done before all employees actually could be given jobs but that did not affect their status or their pay."

The allegation of the ex-strikers that certain scabs were still engaged was denied by the Resident, who relied on information given him by Mr Sharp.

WORKERS ARE ADAMANT

The federation continued to call attention of the Resident that a lock-out exists in fact and that he should make thorough investigation.

The Resident who, by the way, is not the substantive holder of the post but is "Acting Resident," wrote another sophomoric letter concluding, "If you are able to demonstrate any genuine examples of victimization of men who had participated in the strike, such cases will have my consideration."

Maintaining that no step has been taken by officialdom to investigate their allegations of lock-out backed up by concrete evidence but simply shut their eyes to them and say that they do not exist, the Federated Union of Railwaymen made a final plea to the Resident to be more efficient in the execution of his duties.

In a letter dated August 21, they made the following astounding revelations implicating certain Railway officials:

INSPECTOR OF WORKS

"We are still desirous to know what steps you have taken in the matter while we are inclined to believe that you have chosen to follow the footsteps of Mr H. L. M. Butcher (the correspondence was directed to Mr D. A. F. Shute, also Acting Resident) without thorough investigations.

"To reaffirm our facts, Mr R. G. Shail, Inspector of Works of the Engineering Department, still says that you are not in a position to order him to call back the Mason, Mr Gabriel, whom he dismissed for the act of striking.

"Further to your request we send the Mason to you on demonstration as you still deny our facts of victimization.

"We do not know further on what basis you want us to demonstrate the genuine example of victimization whereas our letters to you are self explanatory.

"Up till now, Shail has not said anything in this connection while those employed during the strike are still working....."

KANO LOCK-OUT

The Kano Station Staff Union, in a letter dated August 12, alleged that when the ex-strikers returned to work, they were not allowed to take over.

This they have construed as "a technical lock-out" because the terms of settlement reached between the strikers and the Government were based on an understanding that there will be no hitch in the way of the workers resuming duty.

Due to the alleged intervention and good sense of the Police, a serious crisis was averted. 11-23-45

(6) DEMOTIONS

Cases of demotions have been reported as well by the workers and although certain explanations were given, the various unions do not seem to have been convinced.

THE CASE OF AWOSIKA

According to the PWD Workers Union, Mr G. A. Awosika, President of the PWD Workers Union, Minna, who had worked as head Road Overseer for over 18 years, was threatened with dismissal, and was demoted to be paid on a daily basis.

After such demotion, he was transferred from the Gwari to the Kontagora Native Authority.

"Why Mr Awosika should be singled out for dismissal for the mere act of striking baffles my mentality and the PWD authorities should please look into this allegation" according to Mr S. A. Olukoya, General Secretary of the PWDWU. 11-23-45

PWD DEMOTIONS

There have been reports of

wholesale demotions in the Public Works Department at Lagos, those concerned being ex-strikers.

Lorry and Tractor Drivers have been given inferior jobs to what they were used before the strike.

Carpenters at the Assembly Workshop (Ijora) were shifted to the Joinery Workshop where they had to work under or with scabs and temporary employees.

A Machinist on 1/6d per diem, was demoted to work under a scab who was engaged at 2/- per diem, at the Machine Shop (Ijora).

A Crane Driver with 12 years' experience, has been transferred to the Labour Gang at the Coal Wharf (Ijora).

Coal Boys of the Power Station and who had served at least for 14 years, were demoted to do some temporary construction work elsewhere.

LAGOS TOWN COUNCIL

In the Anti-Malarial Sections of the Medical Officer of Health's office, Inspectors were reported to have been demoted to become Labourers and picks and shovels were issued to them to dig ditches and drains.

In the Mortuary, two workers of long experience were said to have been placed on less skilled work.

The Medical Officer of Health has made certain explanations, but only justified certain mass dismissals and I have not seen any explanations in respect of these demotions.

Perhaps some will be forthcoming, if they had not been published already.

To be continued.

1a- 1945

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (46)

"Behind the man with the name, Imoudu, lies the story of the struggles of the Nigerian worker for emancipation"

WHICH STRUGGLES CULMINATED IN THE COLA CRISIS

West African Pilot

Having endeared himself to the workers of Nigeria by reason of his singularly courageous stand on their behalf, Imoudu had incurred the ire of officialdom; but although he was considered potentially dangerous to the tranquility of the country yet, curiously enough, he was deemed suitable for use as an instrument to give potential help in calling off the strike in provincial centres, thus restoring tranquility to the very country. Lagos, Nigeria

WHO IS Imoudu and why was his name so magical in the labour world in Nigeria that his mere presence was sufficient to inspire confidence in the workers to call off their strike?

Behind the man with the name, Imoudu, lies the story of the struggles of the Nigerian worker for emancipation.

The part he played in the growth of trade unionism in this country is yet to be fully told, but suffice it to say that, if there is any labour leader who had tasted the bitter fruit of leadership and who had been sacrificed at Gethsemane, as an oblation to propitiate for the cause of Nigerian labour, there is no greater person than Michael Artokhamen Ominus Imoudu.

THOSE EARLY DAYS

Imoudu is of Benin origin, having been born at Oke in Ora.

He attended schools, off and on, at Ora and Sapele and completed his elementary education at the Church Missionary Society School at Benin City.

In spite of his lateness in starting school (at the age of 12) he learned enough to supplement his natural ability.

In the village sports, he proved an adept at masquerading, becoming famous for his dexterity and bravery.

He so yearned for education that, when he was a house servant of a Nupe gentleman, he had to do a lot of manual labour in order to earn money with which to buy books, clothes, etc.

On leaving school, he followed his bent in mechanical work and served the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Nigerian Railway, where he distinguished himself as an organiser and inspirer of wage-earners.

THE COLA CRISIS

In 1942, when the COLA agitation was in its height, Imoudu forged ahead at the forefront, lined up the Railway workers against accepting humiliating conditions of service, steeled the hearts of the Railway workers, faced Government officials without fear, expressed the feelings and yearnings of the Railway workers with characteristic courage, and thus exposed himself to the ire of officialdom.

Because the British Empire was engaged in the World War II, the Defence Regulations had been enacted and not having a suitable reply to give to Imoudu, the Government of Nigeria, true to the dictates of the logic of imperialism, declared that since Imoudu was a potentially dangerous person to the safety and tranquility of Nigeria, his liberty of movement was restricted and he was virtually under detention. 11-12-45

According to an address presented to him on his release from detention, three years later, the Railway Workers Union said that "The fortitude and courage which you bore through the trial will remain a beacon to generations yet unborn."

RETURN FROM EXILE

After many futile efforts to convince the Nigerian Government to release Mr Imoudu, leaders of various shades of opinion became discomfited by the determination of the Commissioner of Labour not to recommend to the Governor the cancellation of the restriction order which had manacled the liberty of one of His Majesty's Protected Persons.

Then came the end of the war with Germany and the repeal of certain sections of the Defence Regulations, among which was the law which granted the Governor extraordinary power to detain and restrict the movements of persons who are regarded, in his absolute discretion, as potentially dangerous to the peace and tranquility of the country.

So in spite of the obduracy of the Commissioner of Labour, Imoudu was released from confinement and he had to return to Lagos from "exile."

On June 2, 1945; over 50,000 people lined up the streets of Lagos and suburbs in order to accord a great and hitherto unparalleled welcome to one of the bravest sons of Nigeria.

At the reception accorded him at Oko Awo Playground in Lagos, Mr Herbert Macaulay testified that "only a man like Mr Imoudu deserved such a reception of which there had never been an equal."

I was also on the platform that day and I addressed the mammoth crowd ending like this:

"Imoudu has paid the penalty of leadership; he trod the stony road of Golgotha; he bore the cross of Calvary; he was crucified; he has resurrected and he has returned to us in the flesh."

IMOUDU'S DETERMINATION

Replying to his thousands of worshippers and admirers, Mr Imoudu likened his detention and confinement to education.

"I have only done very little towards the cause of trade unionism.

"I have gone into exile for training." 11-12-45

The above sentences summed up his credo, for later he made it quite clear that the cause of the Nigerian worker was no longer to be toyed with at the pleasure of stone-hearted employers.

This has made him to become a hero to thousands of Nigerian workers and when the General Strike was on he was not found wanting, in spite of the attempts of his weak-kneed detractors and antagonists to paint him in lurid and sombre colours.

There can be no doubt that Government realised the value of Imoudu's leadership in Nigerian labour movement, and so he was selected to lead the "Peace Delegates" in order to call off the strike at different parts of the country.

KANO PANEGYRICS

At Kano, when the "Peace Delegates" arrived to call off the strike, the workers there gave him a rousing welcome, opening their address thus:

"Blessed is the eleventh day of the eighth month of the

year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and forty five, which brightly dawned the triumphant visit of the gallant hero of the African race to the headquarters of the Kano emirate in the Northern Provinces of Nigeria."

The Kano workers described Imoudu as "The liberator of the African wage-earners of Nigeria from the yokes of poverty, starvation, and economic strangulation."

They expressed their "unbounded joy and enthusiasm" to hear him advise them to call off the strike, and thanked God that, in the zero hour, Imoudu was "never moved by the magnetism of foreign honours and titles."

That the Kano workers were fully representative cannot be denied; the President of the union is an Hausa from Katsina, the Vice-President is a native of Sierra Leone, the Treasurer is a native of the Gold Coast, and the Secretary hails from Southern Nigeria.

IMOUDU'S VOICE

According to Mr S. A. Olukoya, Secretary of the Public Works Department Workers Union, who accompanied the "Peace Delegates," Imoudu was very helpful in allaying the fears of victimisation envisaged by the workers in the Northern Provinces.

"Everywhere the strike was called off," he narrated, "only Zaria refused entirely to be convinced by the air-borne delegates, but seeing the rail-borne delegates, headed by Imoudu, the Zaria atmosphere changed. 11-12-45

"Kafanchan could not be reached owing to certain concrete reasons, but Imoudu's voice on the telephone eased the situation over there."

Verily, Imoudu served his country patriotically by joining the "Peace Delegates" and assisting in calling off the strike, in spite of what his detractors may say.

This labour leader, like other great labour leaders of history, has been put to the crucible and not found wanting.

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (56)

The West Africa Pilot - Lagos, W. Africa

In spite of feeble explanations, hostility of both African and European bosses was more pronounced than before the strike

ABRIDGEMENT OF PRIVILEGES DID DEMONSTRATE THIS

11-13-45

In today's portion of the story, Zik tells of hostile attitude of European and African bosses towards ex-strikers, as reported by the latter, who also suffered from curtailment of privileges, an example of which was the alleged flinging into the streets of the property of a Railway employee upon his failure to quit government premises where he had stayed before the strike.

(7) HOSTILE ATTITUDE

Immediately the strike was called off, workers in different parts of the country began to experience difficulties which they interpreted to mean hostility against them because they went on strike.

Manifestations of hostile attitude were not confined to the European labour bosses, but to African bosses as well.

At Port Harcourt, the Federated Union of Railwaymen complained that the local District Traffic Superintendent made things difficult for them. 11-13-45

They indicated that "Notwithstanding our complaint to the Local Authority and the Acting Resident, that the old and the new Station Staffs and the Carriage and Wagon Running Shed staffs were allowed to resume their normal duties after the lapse of three and half hours, but the Engineering staffs were locked out the whole day."

POSTS & TELEGRAPHS

The Union of Postal Workers at Port Harcourt complained to Government that their African boss, Mr E. J. Macfoy Buckle, Postmaster, was power drunk, provocative, and that he had made things very difficult and embarrassing for them, on the resumption of duty, after the strike.

On Wednesday, August 22, 1945, at a meeting of the union held at Port Harcourt, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That in view of the fact that Mr E. J. Macfoy Buckle, Postmaster, Port Harcourt, has demonstrated an attitude of maltreatment and hostility against us, strikers of the Union of Postal Workers, since our resumption of duty, on August 9, we as the staff and as officers and members of this said union, humbly and sincerely request the authorities to urgently come to our rescue.

"That the said Mr E. J. Macfoy Buckle, Postmaster, Port Harcourt, has planned and maintained a most unbearable sort of administration. 11-13-45

"That under the above circumstances, our prospects as employees under the Posts and Telegraphs Department are at stake and the interest of the service completely disturbed."

ANOTHER AFRICAN BOSS

At Kano, the Station Staff Union there complained not only about the alleged hostility of the Traffic Inspector (presumably a European), but also about the Senior Station Master there, an African by name of Mr Peter Jones, M.B.E.

According to the report made by the union to the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway, "As we were going away to our respective offices (i.e. a rather embarrassing experience with the Traffic Inspector who was alleged to have locked them out) Mr Peter Jones, M. B. E., made a public pronouncement that he would use his elevated position to see that all the Station Staff strikers were severely dealt with one after the other, more especially the menial staff.

"In view of the above threats too numerous to mention, coupled with his attitude of contemptuous and unhelpful superiority, we were convinced and concluded that we cannot co-operate with him, hence his immediate transfer is solicited in order to avoid unpleasantness."

LTC JOINS BRIGADE

At a mass meeting held at Lagos, the Lagos Town Council African Workers Union viewed with grave concern the uncompromising attitude of the Lagos Town Council alleging that the LTC sought to smother the right of its workers to exercise collective bargaining.

The union strongly resented the alleged attempt made by the LTC to interfere with the rights of association and collective bargaining of the union. 11-13-45

One Ganui Oshun was sacked because, the Medical Officer of Health explains, "discipline must be maintained at all costs" and he added that Oshun was dismissed "for gross impertinence to the European in charge of his section, and his fate could not be attributed to the development of the strike, since he was the only one among the 347 strikers who, on return to work, had grossly misbehaved."

In fairness, I must say that the MOH is an African, Dr I. Ladipo Oluwole.

THE CASE OF GANUI

A man who served the Nigerian Railway for pretty nearly eleven years was sacked, after he had been on strike and resumed duty, "without any reason by Mr G. H. Foden, Sanitary Superintendent."

Although the MOH has explained his side of the case, yet it will be interesting if other pertinent sidelights are also made public.

Mr Foden was alleged to be in the habit of giving ex-strikers minor jobs, whilst scabs were favoured.

Ganui was alleged to have made unnecessary noise outside the office of Mr Foden to incur the displeasure of his boss who fired him.

It is reported that this ex-striker had been a labourer, and a headman on promotion, and that his dismissal was due to misbehaviour and not victimization. 11-13-45

THE CASE OF ABRAHAM

Then there is the case of Mr A. B. Abraham, Relieving Head Clerk of the District Running Shed, Ebute Metta, who was alleged to have been served with a "Red Warning" (last chance) because of reported "insubordination."

This warning is portentous in the Railway because any employee who has his record so tainted must be prepared for dismissal at the next offence committed.

Whether this case has been examined thoroughly or not by the Railway authorities, I do not know, suffice it to say that there is a general impression among Railway workers that it is a manifestation of hostile attitude.

(8) ABRIDGEMENT of Privileges.

Four instances of abridge-

ment of privileges have been reported and workers think that these were due to victimization.

(a) Mr M. A. O. Imoudu, President of the Railway Workers Union, who helped to calm down the strikers and persuade them to return to work, had been barred from entering the premises of the Nigerian Railway (Locomotive Workshops).

(b) Mr Moses Alagi, an employee of the Nigerian Railway, and an ex-striker, was ordered to quit from the quarters provided by the Railway at Makurdi, when he failed to leave promptly, his belongings were alleged thrown into the public street; no official reason has been forthcoming. 11-13-45

THE APAPA TRAIN

(c) About 1,000 Railway and Marine workers who had participated in the last strike have complained about the unwillingness of the Nigerian Railway to run the suburban trains which provided them with transport to their place of work, six miles away.

After an interview between the Railway Workers Union and the Works Manager of the Railway, an official notice indicated that if workers living around Mushin and Suru Lere, working at Apapa, failed to attend duty as a result of the stoppage of the above service, they would be dealt with accordingly.

According to the workers, the train had been in active service for the past 17 years.

RAILWAY SCHOLARSHIP

(d) Mr D. A. Rafih, an Hausa employee of the Nigerian Railway, was offered scholarship by the Government to proceed to the United Kingdom in order to study certain aspects of railway transport.

Being an ex-striker, it was alleged that the scholarship was withdrawn.

According to the General Manager of the Railway, "the rumour is without foundation."

But the fact remains that the other Railway employee who was awarded a scholarship has left Nigeria for the United Kingdom and Mr Rafih is still in Nigeria.

However, the Railway Workers Union has expressed that although the letter from the General Manager had "allayed the anxiety" of its members "to some extent" yet it would be advisable to transfer Mr Rafih from Jebba Station to the headquarters and also let the union "know the date and time of Mr Rafih's departure to the United Kingdom."

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF — **by ZIK**

THE GENERAL STRIKE (61)

West African Pilot

Just as the workers gained and lost by striking, so too has government done by its policy

Lagos Nigeria

THE COUNTRY ALSO HAD ITS SHARE

In this instalment, Zik prepares an interesting profit and loss account of the workers, the government and the country as a whole, and apportions gains and losses to three undertakings accordingly.

WHAT, NOW, is the balance sheet of the General Strike?

A balance sheet shows assets and liabilities and the intention is to prove whether the business concerned is solvent or insolvent?

In order to present a fairly accurate balance sheet, I have before me certain questions to answer, namely:

(1) What have the workers gained by staging the General Strike?

(2) What have they lost by going on strike?

(3) What has the Government of Nigeria gained by sticking to its policy before, during and after the strike?

(4) What has it lost as a result of the strike?

(5) What has the country as a whole gained by the General Strike? 11-30-45

(6) What has the country lost by the General Strike?

ASSETS OF THE STRIKERS

Under the question of what the workers gained by staging a general strike, I will put the following:

(a) World-wide sympathy.
(b) Experience in trade union strategy and tactics.
(c) Confidence in their organising ability.
(d) Self-reliance.
(e) Respect of their employers.
(f) Dynamic leadership.

LIABILITIES OF THE STRIKERS

The question of what the workers lost will be answered under the following categories:

(a) Wages during the strike (i.e. pending final negotiations).
(b) Official favour.
(c) Security in the tenure of their employment.
(d) Weak-kneed leadership.
(e) Solidarity of the labour movement in Nigeria.
(f) Confidence of traditional but influential segments of Nigerian society. 11-30-45

GAINS OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government made certain gains as follows:

(a) Unearned income of the workers (pending final negotiations).
(b) Support of the police and military authorities in the maintenance of law and order.
(c) Support of the Colonial Office on its stand.
(d) Confidence of discredited trades union leaders.
(e) Confidence of the Legislative Council.
(f) Support of the Executive Council.
(g) Confidence of the Natural Rulers of Nigeria.
(h) Confidence of the Church.

LOSSES OF THE GOVERNMENT

The Government also made certain losses, as a result of the General Strike, as follows:

(a) Prestige as a citadel of social justice.
(b) Confidence of the trades unions of Nigeria.
(c) Confidence of a section of the press of Nigeria.
(d) Confidence of some shades of public opinion in West Africa, the West Indies, Canada, the United States, Asia, and Europe.
(e) Considerable revenue accruing to the Nigerian Railway, Marine, Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs, Lagos Town Council, and other departments of the civil service.

WHAT NIGERIA GAINED FROM THE STRIKE

The various communities of Nigeria gained by the strike: 11-30-45

(a) Respect for public opinion.
(b) Respect for the Nigerian wage-earner.
(c) Respect of the outside world.
(d) Dynamic leadership.
(e) Spirit of co-operation.

WHAT NIGERIA LOST FROM THE STRIKE

Nigeria, as a whole, lost, as a result of the strike
(a) Essential services on the usual scale.
(b) Considerable revenue.
(c) Liberty of the Press.
(d) Unity among trades union leaders.
(e) Opportunity to raise standard of living of Nigerian workers.

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (47)

West African Pilot. Lagos, W. Africa

The appearance of the Southern Nigeria Defender precipitated the end both of the strike and the ban on the Pilot and Comet

GREAT WAS THE EFFECT OF THIS JOURNALISTIC COUP

With the appearance on the streets of Lagos of the Southern Nigeria Defender, which was gobbled up by the "hungry" public, it was obviously futile to continue the ban on the Pilot and Comet; so the strike having been called off on August 4, the ban was lifted 10 days later, according to the absolute discretion of the Acting Governor.

11-13-45

WHILST the strikers were engaged in debate whether the terms of armistice were honourable or not, especially in respect of the continued suppression of the Pilot and the Comet, the proprietors of the former paper had pulled a stroke of diplomacy in journalism which altered the shape of things and which also precipitated not only the expeditious settlement of the dispute but also the lifting of the ban.

As previously indicated elsewhere in this series of articles, I had advised Mr A. K. Blankson, Managing Editor of the Southern Nigeria Defender, to close down that paper at Warri and to be in readiness to begin publication of the Defender at Lagos.

He was appointed General Manager to supervise the editing and production of the paper and was given a power of attorney accordingly.

When now, by the end of July, the ban was not lifted, Mr Blankson caused the Defender to appear on the streets of Lagos, on August 2, 1945. 11-13-45

ELECTRICAL EFFECT

The effect on the Lagos community was said to be electrical.

Not having been privileged to read newspapers with militant and constructive editorial policy, for about one month, and many readers having discontinued buying certain papers for personal or other reasons, the "maiden" edition of the Defender was gobbled up in no time.

According to a letter received by me in my hide-out in this respect, and written by one of the greatest leaders produced by this country, "The sudden appearance in the Lagos horizon on Thursday last of 17,000 copies of the Southern Nigeria Defender from the press at 34 Commercial Avenue, Yaba Estate, fell like a thunderbolt from the blues upon the ..... one of whom on seeing the affidavit and signed issue was reported to have ejaculated: 'God damn it! This fellow is unconquerable!' "

When the circulation returns were forwarded to me, later, by our General Manager, I was informed that the 17,000 was sold out at Lagos alone, and that specially printed copies had to be done for the provincial centres.

WHAT'S THE USE?

The Defender had the same format as the prohibited Pilot.

Only the motto and certain column heads were changed.

The types were the same; the headline technique was identic, and the editorial policy conformed with the newspapers of the Zik Group.

It was reported that some official was heard to say: "What's the use of continuing the ban?"

Evidently, he must have had good reasons for making the alleged interrogation, but the strikers and the general public so patronised the Defender that the General Manager had to write to me for permission to restrict circulation which had gone up to 19,000 and our machines were showing awful wear and tear.

We had to reduce the circulation to a reasonable figure in order to preserve the lives of our machines and also not to impair the efficiency of our workers who had to do overtime in order to meet the demands of the voracious reading public. 11-13-45

Before the ban, the highest circulation of the Pilot was 13,500.

REACTION OF STRIKERS

As Imoudu and company wended their way to the different parts of the country, they were confronted with criticisms by the strikers who wondered whether the armistice terms were not dishonourable?

In the Eastern Provinces, the workers asked why the ban on the Pilot and the Comet was not removed?

The Peace Delegates told them that they had not compromised the position of the two newspapers and that the Chief Secretary had assured them that he would exercise his discretion to the best interests of the strikers, since it was a political and not an economic issue.

According to Mr Luke Emejulu, who travelled by air in the company of others, he observed that "in all the stations, the workers.....emphasised on the releasing of the ban on the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet."

Thus it was clear that workers did not forget "their friends who stood by them through thick and thin in their hour of need and suffered on their behalf," as the Guardian puts it.

BAN IS REMOVED

Twelve days after the publication of the Defender in Lagos (i. e. ten days after calling off the strike), the ban was removed and the order prohibiting the printing and publishing of the Pilot was cancelled by the same Acting Governor, in his absolute discretion. 11-13-45

It is germane if I say that certain factors must have been responsible for lifting of the ban, if the information at my disposal that, Sir Gerald Whiteley had intended originally that the ban should last for three months, is accurate namely: (a) the appearance of the Southern Nigeria Defender in Lagos (b) the hostile attitude of the strikers towards the ban as evidence of victimisation of the workers and their friends (c) unfavourable public opinion against the ban — in West Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, China, United Kingdom, the West Indies, Canada, United Socialist Soviet Republics of Russia, and the United States of America. 11-13-45

So that, in exercising his absolute discretion, His Excellency must have reckoned with these factors.

The universal and world-wide favourable reception of news in respect of the lifting of the ban, vindicates the points raised above.

THE STRIFE IS O'ER!

Now that the strife was o'er, it remains for me to

prepare a balance sheet of the assets and liabilities, so far as the workers, the Government, and the community are concerned.

Before doing so, I will feel the pulse of public opinion as reflected in the editorial columns of the press in Nigeria, in order to present an objective picture of the whole situation.

The Nigerian Daily Times said that "the action of the workers is blameworthy" because "it would appear that they have not developed a spirit of tolerance and have no confidence in their leaders." 11-13-45

It also rebuked the discredited leaders by asserting that "the omission by the leaders to take the right steps from the initial stages of the dispute brought about the deadlock in the negotiation and the subsequent strike."

Its position was summed up as follows: "Whether the workers' demands are proper or otherwise is a question which we are not in a position to answer, but we feel that before a strike, legal or illegal, was resorted to, they should have pressed their claim through the proper channels because of the adverse consequences of a strike to the community generally."

THE SAME KEYNOTE

Of course the Nigerian Daily Times was not in position to appreciate that the idea to renounce the leadership of those who originally led the workers and egged them on to present an ultimatum to Government came from the leaders themselves, who thought that by so doing they would gain official favour, and possibly honours, and thus escape from prosecution and other legal consequences, and not necessarily the workers. 11-13-45

It is significant that the Daily Times has struck the same keynote we struck regarding the trade union leaders, and for which keynote both the Pilot and the Comet were suppressed by Sir Gerald Whiteley, who was then Officer Administering the Government of Nigeria.

That the Daily Times agrees that the leaders did not "take the right steps from the initial stages" vindicates our stand, in the light of the contemporary social and economic history of Nigeria.

To be continued.

1a-1945

South Rhodesian Railwaymen Now Strike & Sympathising African Miners Join

West African Pilot

Strikers Gaoled Under Colour Bar Law

Lagos Nigeria

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.—The African continent is seething with political and economic unrest.

Colonial officials in London are becoming alarmed at the widespread political and economic dissatisfaction existing in many of the British territories in Africa and the rapid growth of nationalistic feeling, coupled with an awakened solidarity among the workers and peasants.

11-30-45

Even since the general strike among government transport workers in Nigeria for increase in wages and salary scales to meet the alarming rise in the cost of foodstuffs and consumption goods, due to war-time scarcity, the Colonial Office has instructed local governments to take measures to prevent the re-occurrence of such outbreaks which are discrediting British colonial rule in America and other parts of the world where criticism of the colonial systems is also vocal.

Acting on this mandate from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, it is learned in well informed parliamentary circles here that Sir Arthur Richards, pro-consul of Nigeria, has appointed a special commission to enquire into labour troubles in the colony. 11-30-45

The composition of this commission, however, is being criticised by certain Labour Members of Parliament who feel that, unless an impartial body of experts from England undertake the enquiry, the workers of Nigeria can hardly be expected to have confidence in the findings of the commission.

From enquiries, I understand that the commission will be selected by the Governor and not by parliament as was the case with the Royal Commission on West Indian Affairs under the chairmanship of the late Lord Moyne, who was murdered by Jewish terrorists in Cairo last year.

Another criticism voiced by members of parliament who intend to raise the matter in the House of Commons is, the commission will have no terms of reference to investigate the grievances of the lower grades of daily labourers such as those employed by the Public Works Department and Railways controlled by government. 11-30-45

11-30-45

The situation in Nigeria has deteriorated to such an extent that, according to unconfirmed reports reaching the Colonial Office, it is understood that the labour movement in Nigeria has asked the Secretary of State to recall the Governor and several other high-ranking officials as the people have lost confidence in the present administration and have no intention of co-operating with the authorities in working the new constitution and carrying out official plans of economic reconstruction under the colonial welfare and development scheme.

RHODESIAN RAIL STRIKE

Like Nigeria, economic discontent has broken out in Southern Rhodesia, where the colour-bar system is as effectively applied as in the Union of South Africa.

After years of fruitless negotiations with the government headed by Sir Godfrey Huggins, Prime Minister of that semi Dominion, News Review reports that, thousands of African railway workers declared a general strike for more pay and cost of living allowances.

The report states that at first there seemed no cause for alarm.

Many goods trains were cancelled, but passenger trains kept up the schedule with the help of European railway staff, who refused to support the black workers and acted as "black-legs" by coaling the locomotives and attending to other hard jobs usually reserved for natives under the colour bar set-up in operation on the railway system.

In this way, trains were run from strike-free junctions to Bulawayo and back. 11-30-45

Realising that the white aristocratic workers who received cost of living allowances and refused to allow the Africans to join the Railway union, the Africans started to form their own unions.

Then, suddenly, like a string of Chinese crackers, the strike spread to railway depots all over Rhodesia.

A complete break-down of communications was threatened as the government could not find enough Europeans to act as strike-breakers, working long hours manning trains in the African climate.

Furthermore, what it would cost to hire white labour to man the railways in Rhodesia would be far more that the total sum demanded by the Africans as cost of living increases. 11-30-45

Faced with this situation, the railway officials offered to meet the strike leaders and discuss grievances providing that the strikers first agree to resume work.

The workers, however, refused until the government signed and sealed formal contracts so that they would not be tricked like the Nigerian workers who first called off their strike before starting negotiations.

Following the break-down of preliminary talks, the African miners employed in the copper and gold mines at Broken Hill, as well as the carpenters, bricklayers and other skilled artisans came out in sympathy with the railway men.

REPRESSIVE MEASURES

Unable to trick the Africans back to work, the government started to apply repressive measures.

Under the Colour Bar Act, as obtains in Southern Rhodesia, the authorities have the right to apply a feudal law known as the Masters and Servants Act.

Under this Act, any African who refuses to work for his white master when so ordered to do so can be arrested and sent to jail.

Last week the jails of Bulawayo were packed to over-flow with African strikers. 11-30-45

Brought before the European magistrates the Africans were fined.

They refused to pay and, as the government had to feed them, they were soon released.

To be concluded.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (38)

The reaction of the West African Press towards the General Strike in Nigeria was simply definite and uncompromising

BUT MOST COSMOPOLITAN WAS GOLD COAST OPINION

Newspapers of other West African colonies were much freer in expressing opinion on the General Strike than their Nigerian counterpart which, however, continued the fight with unabated and balanced determination even after two of their number had been suppressed and hushed.

WEST AFRICAN opinion on the General Strike was a mixture of disgust and justification of the attitude of the strikers.

I say this backed by a perusal of the views expressed in the newspapers published in the Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

Gambian opinion regretted the circumstances leading to the strike and partcularly resented the imposition of the ban on the Pilot and the Comet.

Sierra Leone concentrated its attack on the resuscitation of press censorship and alleged that the closing down of the Pilot and the Comet was due to "sheer spite."

The Gold Coast papers were acrimonious in spots and challenged a system of government which condemns a considerable number of its subjects to imperialistic exploitation.

One of them regarded the General Strike in Nigeria as an answer to British imperialism; another thought that the strike was a vindication "that the African under-dog is capable of concerted action and of unbroken determination."

NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS

The Nigerian papers were not as free in the expression of their opinions as would be expected of a great dependency of its size.

The Lagos papers which were candid enough to criticise the whole labour fiasco, without fear or favour, were suppressed but, to the embarrassment of those responsible, the reaction, so far as the outside world was concerned, was like a boomerang.

Three newspapers published in the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria stood their ground like champions, in spite of threats and unnecessary insults from certain quarters.

On the whole, Nigerian newspapers were balanced in their handling of the labour disturbances, when it is remembered that Government played a dual role: (a) as employer of labour and (b) as one charged with the maintenance of law and order.

The Nigerian newspapers, true to the traditions of journalism, exposed embarrassing situations and made healthy criticisms which, if those in charge of affairs had taken like good sports, would have accelerated the solution of the dispute.

DEFENCE REGULATIONS

The fact that a law was made, under the cloak of the Defence Regulations, giving the executive unilateral, absolute, unquestionable, authoritarian and totalitarian power, "during the continuance of the war," is evidence of the strength or weakness of the stand of the Government.

A Government which resorts to Defence Regulations in order to curb its critics merely exposes itself to the condemnation of the morally conscious and justice-loving sections of humanity.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the atomic bomb cut short the war with Japan and, although the new Defence Regulations empowering the Governor in his absolute discretion to suppress any newspaper thrived, yet the end of the war in the Far East has made this law a dead letter, even though it is still on our statute book and not repealed.

I say this not in a spirit of pride or defiance, but because this war was fought, among other aims, in order to prevent THE MANY from being subjected to the "absolute discretion" of THE FEW.

GAMBIA'S REACTION

According to the Gambia Echo, the Gambian communities were very much disturbed over the ban placed on the West African Pilot and great concern was expressed particularly in Bathurst.

The Gambians gave an indication, in a cablegram, of preparedness "to do everything possible in the circumstances in the interests of West African journalism and the liberty of the press."

When the ban was lifted, another cablegram stated that "following the publicity which the local press gave to the Nigerian labour strike and the developments, there was marked expression of pleasure when the news of the lifting of the ban on the Pilot and the Comet was released."

SIERRA LEONE SPEAKS

The Nigerian Eastern Mail, in its issue of September 15, 1945, released a news item from its Sierra Leone Correspondent which may be said to sum up the reaction in Sierra Leone, as follows:

"The news that the Nigerian Government has stopped Zik's Press from publishing the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet has been received here with great regret.

"Everywhere the talk is Government does not want any paper that will open the eyes of the people.

"The daily newspapers in Freetown are sold at one penny, but the people rush for the West African Pilot, even though it is two pence per copy, as though it is being published in Freetown.

"It is hoped that the matter will soon be settled and that Professor Nnamdi Azikiwe will be given freedom to show the light so that the people will follow.

"Everybody here is of opinion that it is sheer spite and advantage to stop the West African Pilot because it is candid in its opinion about the strike in Nigeria.

"Governments will be taken to record some day for all their actions."

THE GOLD COAST

The Gold Coast reacted to the Nigerian strike not in a parochial but in a cosmopolitan manner.

Newspapers in the Eastern Province, Central Province, and Ashanti expressed their views in no uncertain terms.

ASHANTI SPEAKS

Commenting on the Nigeria strike, the Ashanti Pioneer (Kumasi) published an editorial, entitled "Nigeria Explodes" as follows:

"The Lagos section of the Nigerian governmental and municipal technical workers are on strike.

"So read the BBC news on Monday, July 2, 1945.

"Yes, the Nigerians are learning to talk in the language that the occident understands, economically speaking.

"And the strike is hinged on wages.

"To hell with wages in the colonial world!

NIGERIAN NATIONALISM

"No one who has been observing intelligently the Nigerian renaissance in trade unionism and national consciousness could have predicted otherwise.

"And the storm has broken, and it has been sweeping on since June 22, 1945.

"And it continues.

"And the government procrastinates and the explosion reverberates.

"It will be echoed, far and wide in the hearts of exploited millions in the colonial world — in India, in South Africa and elsewhere, where impudent, self-styled master races perpetrate man's economic inhumanity to man."

HEARTLESS CAPITALISM

In a second instalment, the Ashanti Pioneer's editorial said:

From the press, from the mouths of immigrants, from over the ether continues to come the unhappy news that our comrades in Nigeria — toiling like ourselves under the flattening wheels of heartless capitalism — are on strike, after exhausting every persuasion to obtain fair treatment in wages.

Strikes are necessary evils within the framework of capitalism, and are the safety valves which regulate excessive exploitation.

Unfortunately, where they are just precipitated without first taking into consideration the economic issues of the situation, they do more harm than good to both employer and employee.

"ALL COLONIAL SUBJECTS"

We sympathise with our Nigerian comrades and appreciate the circumstances which led them to resort to this action.

But right now, let us register this warning.

Their success is our success: their failure, our failure.

We hope they will not let us down — by "us" we mean the totality of all colonial subjects.

INFLATION BUNK

The excuse that raised wages will not automatically bring about general improvement in the condition of things is a perversion of an economic truism — a hallucination of the people by using terms calculated to baffle the ignorant workers.

Listen — nobody is so sophisticated as to believe that the award of world without end allowances of war bonus, separation discomfort, homeguard etc. to black and white would lead to inflation.

Promiscuous award of allowances what are they, but veiled salaries on the rising?

LAZARUS REINCARNATED

To argue therefore, as the Nigerian Government has done, that a raised level of salaries would only lead to rising prices, is an ingenuous evasion of an unpalatable duty.

Let us conclude by parodying the words of Celia Burleigh:

humanity is one, and not until the Lazarus of colonial exploitation is cured of his sores will the Dives of imperialism be safe."

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (48)

With the workers the question was not very much of the niceties of law as it was a matter of life and death

BUT GOVERNMENT CLUNG FIRMLY TO A LEGAL RUSE

Continuing his "balance sheet of the assets and liabilities so far as the Government, the workers and the community are concerned," Zik today quotes extensively from an Editorial in the Eastern Nigeria Guardian, which impartially apportioned blame to the various disputants of the June 1945 General Strike. to their demands.

FROM the Eastern Nigeria Guardian comes a challenging editorial which not only makes an impartial analysis of this labour problem, but also puts the blame where one is necessary.

In view of its absorbing interest, I hope that I will be granted the indulgence to reproduce most of the pertinent parts of this thought-provoking commentary.

The Guardian is of opinion that "the attitude of the Nigerian Government throughout the whole period has not been such as should win commendation."

OFFICIAL BUNGLINGS

It feels that the strike was "one long period of disgraceful official bunglings," giving tangible reasons thus:

"The workers submitted their ultimatum on May 19, giving one month within which Government was to consider their case and reply.

"But there was no reply until nearly a month after, that is, June 11, when the workers were told that Government was unable to accede to their demands.

"In the meantime, feelings had been running high in the circles of the hungry workers and we dare say that there was no one in the country who could not sense danger in the air.

"The workers' threat was the talk in all circles, official and unofficial.

"Everybody had a sense of evil foreboding; there was sign of ill omen in the air.

INACTION AND REACTION

"But what did the Government, knowing that the workers' notice was not constitutional, do?

"From what happened later, we can only conclude that some high officials reserved the last laugh to themselves, thinking that they had the trump card in the game and they would just expose it at the last moment to baffle the angry workers.

"For how else can one account for the fact that it was not until the last moment that the leaders of the working men were told that the notice they filed was not constitutionally done and that they had to start from where they were on May 19?

"With the thousands of Nigerian workers, the question was not one of official red-tape and that sort of things.

"It was one of bread and butter, a matter of their very existence about which they had no patience to be bothered by the fine points of red-tape."

AN EARLY CORRECTIVE

The Guardian thinks that had the workers been corrected early they would have acted constitutionally, but since the Government replied to their correspondence, it was also in the same boat with the workers.

It says that "Officialdom ought, therefore, to have learnt from this crisis that when the question is one of bread and butter, people cannot afford to be trifled with.

"To the thousands of Nigerian workers the question was not just a game of chance. "It was one of life and death over which they had no patience to be tossed about in the name of red-tape."

AN UNUSUAL DOCUMENT

The reply of the Government was regarded by this same paper as "an unusual piece of official document" because "it certainly left much room for tact."

"As it were," the editorial continues, "it sort of slammed the door on the face of the workers.

"It did not even waste time to talk of constitutional approach and all that; it simply said in a blunt language that the workers' demands were not going to be granted and that is all there is to it.

"No wonder the Civil Service Union replied that their confidence in the Government was shattered.

"That is about the only courteous reply to such a document."

VERY FAULTY TACTICS

The Guardian is definite on its stand for the maintenance of law and order.

It maintains that it deprecates any tendency towards mob rule and lawlessness.

It holds that Nigerians were clamouring for self-government and naturally they should cultivate respect for authority, respect for the law, and respect for order.

But it argues: "We admit that the workers ought to have filed their notice in the proper constitutional way.

"But we maintain that where the very existence of thousands was concerned, officialdom ought to have dispelled all the tricks of red-tape-ism and deal with matters in a realistic way.

"The idea of gaining time by delaying the trump card — of showing the angry workers where they were wrong at the last moment — is fatal."

TRADES UNION LEADERS

In another editorial published in a subsequent issue, the Guardian tackled the leadership of the Nigerian trades unions in a blunt manner, supporting, again, the keynote struck both by the Pilot and the Comet (for which they were suppressed), and with which the Nigerian Daily Times had been shown to be in comp'ete agreement.

"If the leaders were as alert and responsible as those whose every action might affect the lives of millions of people should be," submits the Guardian, "the strike could surely not have been illegal."

The leaders, it asserts, should have "read and re-read the laws governing trade disputes and file their ultimatum in the right and proper way provided by the law."

Had this been done, the Guardian believes that "there should have been no possibility of anybody keeping back a trump card to expose at the last moment to their discomfiture.

"Then they could not have found themselves in the queer position of leading thousands of hungry people to the thin edge of a precipice and then trying to stop them from taking the inevitable plunge."

SOLUTION OF PROBLEM

Finally, the Guardian offers a solution to the problem of trades union leadership in Nigeria:

"Our only solution against the recurrence of these kinds of things is that the Nigerian trades union organisation must now employ its own well-paid officers and own well equipped offices, not only in Lagos, but in most of the important centres.

"The direction of the affairs of such powerful organisation cannot well be entrusted as part time jobs into the hands of those who have their own duties to perform and worse still who earn their bread and butter from the same employers with whom they might often have to come into grips.

"It is our firm belief, considerably strengthened by recent happenings that, before our trades union organisations can well come into their own, they should train, on scholarships abroad, their own officers to man their central offices and direct their affairs.

"These are days of scientific precision in the running of all human affairs and to leave the running of such an important modern force as trades unions in the hands of untrained amateurs is like playing with fire."

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF

by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (59)

The African Pilot Lagos Nigeria

The ex-strikers were not to fold their arms and look on in aggrieved silence while victimization was at its height

11-28-45

SO THEY ALSO REACTED IN EIGHT DIFFERENT WAYS

Having elaborated upon the different ways in which the workers were reportedly victimised, and having given some press opinions on this issue of victimization of ex-strikers, Zik today recounts eight ways in which the workers themselves reacted.

IN VIEW of the fact that despite the circular of the Chief Secretary and departmental standing orders, the General Orders provide also for security of tenure of office, the workers reacted against this policy of alleged victimization in eight ways:

EIGHT POINTS

(1) They have passed a resolution of "No Confidence" in the Nigerian Government.

(2) They have interviewed the Chief Secretary and aired their grievances in respect of victimization, contrary to the spirit and letter of the armistice ending the strike.

(3) They have instructed all the trades unions to publish the facts relating to victimization for the information and action of the various heads of departments. 11-28-45

(4) They have renounced Christianity because they said that the church did not manifest sympathy towards their cause during and after the strike.

(5) They have criticised peace makers and intermediaries for their studied silence in view of the widespread nature of victimization of strikers.

(6) They have denounced the Chiefs and Natural Rulers of Nigeria for their indifference towards the wage-earners of Nigeria.

(7) They have decided to enter into the political arena of Nigeria and contest for seats in the municipal and legislative councils in order to protect the interest of workers. 11-28-45

(8) They have threatened counter-measures in the form of "a most formidable strike."

"NO CONFIDENCE"

On Friday, September 7, 1945, the ACSTWU forwarded a cablegram to the Colonial Office expressing the lack of confidence of the workers of Nigeria in the present regime and urging the removal of five high officials including the Governor.

The text of the cablegram reads in part:

"At a mass meeting on September 5, Nigerian workers, affirming their resolution of August 23, unanimously resolved 'No Confidence' in the present unsympathetic Government, comprising Sir Arthur Richards, Governor; Sir Gerald Whiteley, Officer Administering the Government; Captain E. A. Miller, Commissioner of Labour; Mr G. F. T. Colby, Deputy Chief Secretary; and Mr D. G. Fletcher, Public Relations Officer.

"The workers, while stoutly maintaining allegiance to the Sovereign, consider themselves faced with starvation under British rule and demand the immediate recall of the officials mentioned."

True, the mass meeting was called in connexion with the award of C.O.L.A. but the problems raised by victimization intensified the situation and made the workers to lose confidence in the administration. 11-28-45

THAT INTERVIEW

On Friday, August 24, representatives of the ACSTWU met the Chief Secretary at an interview when they made six demands on the Government, to wit:

(a) Full pay for the month of June.

(b) Pay for the period during which the workers were on strike.

(c) Full pay for the month of August.

(d) Prosecution of leaders of strikers should cease; this included strikers now being prosecuted and those intended to be prosecuted.

(e) Victimization of strikers.

(f) The future of trade unionism in Nigeria.

In respect of (a) agreement was reached that those who worked for 21 days in June should be paid in full for that period.

No agreement was reached in respect of (b).

In respect of (c), a compromise is being arranged.

As for (d) Government said that investigation was still pending. 11-28-45

The question of victimization, that is (e), having been thrashed, it was agreed, on a mutual basis, that the individual unions should take it up with their respective departments.

Government gave assurance that, in respect of (f) there was no intention to curb the activities of trades unions in Nigeria.

At this meeting there were the Chief Secretary, the Postmaster-General, the Acting Commissioner of Labour, a representative of the General Manager of the Nigerian Railway, and a representative of the Director of Marine; strangely, the Public Works Department which played a conspicuous part in the series of victimizations alleged by the workers, was not reported to have been represented at this meeting, whose atmosphere was described by the West African Pilot as "cordial."

Of course the executive of the ACSTWU turned out in full force.

APPEAL TO UNIONS

In spite of Government assurances of no victimization, the General Secretary of the Railway Workers Union reviewed this thorny issue and, in his capacity as Secretary of the ACSTWU, Mr Osindero emphasised the continued complaints of workers throughout the country that they were being victimised because they had participated in the strike.

"For instance," he reported, "in Zaria, some leaders who were arrested during the strike are reported to be still kept under arrest and their trials are also being delayed. 11-28-45

"Again, less than a week ago, 64 men who were ex-strikers were reported to have been given the sack at Enugu Railway Workshop whilst they were replaced by recruits from Port Harcourt and the adjoining towns.....

"I hope each union will take up any case of general victimization with the heads of their departments, and if there is no satisfactory solution, the ACSTWU will refer their case to the Chief Secretary."

CHRISTIANITY IN NIGERIA

On Thursday, October 11, the technical workers of Nigeria in a mass meeting assembled at Lagos, decided

to renounce Christianity.

According to press reports, "They decided not to go to church again since the Missions which brought along the Government were not willing to advise Government that their (workers') demands were justified.

"Even the Mission schools, the workers said, may be abandoned." 11-28-45

In this connection, the West African Pilot has editorialised that there is dissatisfaction in this country with the role of the church, because it hesitates to denounce social injustice.

"The recent general strike has only accentuated what has been existing for a long time now.

"The church played no little part in lending a racial colour to the whole affair.

"European Protestant ministers and Reverend Fathers passed daily by struggling Africans, expectant mothers, in the now notorious Pullen queues.

"Yet, like the Levite and priest in the biblical story, they left the matter for African Samaritans in the persons of the Venerable Doctor Lucas and others.

"The workers have taken a decision, which does not necessarily represent the ideal.

"But certain it is that such decision is a pointer to the fate of the church in Nigeria, if its present indifference should characterise its future policy. 11-28-45

"Africans are by nature religious.

"But no longer, it now seems, will they continue in blind following.

"The church today in Nigeria must be told in plain terms that it has not at all been distinguished for its interest in the welfare of its flock.

"Otherwise, we see no reason why church heads like the Roman Catholic and Anglican Bishops of Lagos could not have come out in the open to denounce the recent stubborn policy of the Government."

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (54)

The West African Pilot Lagos W. Africa

Mass dismissals and retrenchment of ex-strikers were not the only forms of victimisation that was their experience

TO THESE WERE ADDED ASSAULTS & PROSECUTIONS

Reports of acts of assault on ex-strikers by some bosses of government departments came from different parts of the country, and the record of the Nigerian Railway took the cake; but even to this was added criminal prosecutions of strikers, which were continued even after the strike had been called off.

(3) ASSAULTS 11-22-45

The practice of assault and battery, alleged by some workers, was also a feature of the charge of victimization which was said to have been practised by certain employers of Government who were in position to boss ex-strikers.

THE KANO CASE

The Kano Station Staff Union reported the alleged commission of assault on Godwin Onwechie, and Salu, two Railway employees who had been on strike.

It indicated that when the ex-strikers went to resume duty the Traffic Inspector told them discourteously that "he had no time for strikers."

It was alleged that after he had provoked the workers, and the latter wanted to form a procession in order to protest to the Resident against the alleged unbecoming behaviour of the Railway boss, "he was so irritable that he actually pushed away one Godwin Onwechie and Guard Salu from his office." 11-22-45

It was also reported that "Guard Anyogu appealed to him to leave the people as it would serve no useful purpose using force."

Police officials were alleged to be present during the commission of this act.

THE ENUGU CASE

The Secretary of the Colliery Workers Union at Enugu (Mr Isaiah Okwudili Ojiyi) was alleged to have been assaulted by a European Overman of the colliery named T. Yates.

It was reported that Ojiyi was called by the Overman to examine some dirt whilst on duty underground.

Mr Ojiyi said that the area in question was beyond his own boundary and Mr Yates was alleged to have administered him a beating.

When the Nigerian Spokesman published the news, the Resident of Onitsha Province visited Enugu in order to investigate the accusation and he advised Mr Ojiyi that he was "perfectly at liberty to institute proceedings in the court of the Magistrate, Enugu — in which court you will find that an equal measure of justice is accorded to all persons whatever their nationality." 11-22-45

The Resident assured Mr Ojiyi that, according to the Manager of the Colliery, the incident would not jeopardise his progress in his work.

Mr Ojiyi has since instituted legal proceedings against Mr Yates having retained a counsel to appear on his behalf.

THE LAGOS CASE

According to the West African Pilot, on October 1, Mr F. G. W. Porter, Senior Storekeeper of the Nigerian Railway, "was alleged to have rough-handled one Samuel, a labourer of the same establishment" in one of the locomotive workshops.

The European storekeeper was alleged enraged, as a quarrel broke out between him and the labourer, and he was alleged to have assaulted the African labourer who did not retaliate, according to the press. 11-22-45

When the alleged assault was committed, the labourer was said to have stood watching his boss, with arms folded, and not satisfied with the first blow, "the European boss was alleged to have given the labourer a kick which sent him swooning to the floor."

"Attempt to revive the unfortunate labourer having failed, he was conveyed away for treatment somewhere else."

According to the Daily Comet, the labourer was taken to a private doctor for treatment at the expense of the Railway Workers Union since "the assault was alleged to be so serious."

ANOTHER LAGOS CASE

Momo, a Gate man employed by the Nigerian Railway, was alleged to have been given a sizable beating by an Indoor Superintendent, a European official.

The Railway employee who was alleged assaulted was reported to have been late in the execution of his duty.

According to the Daily Comet, the alleged assault was so severe "that the Railway Workers Union had to rush Momo to a private doctor at its own expense."

PORT HARCOURT CASE

According to the Eastern Nigeria Guardian, eighteen Army labourers instituted legal proceedings against Captain Page, Captain Welder, Staff Sergeant McIver and Sergeant Musa, claiming £10 each for alleged assault and wrongful dismissal because they had participated in a strike. 11-22-45

These labourers were engaged in removing faeces from various tenements of the community and were alleged assaulted when they refused to commit any act which might make them scabs.

It is understood that when the case was called, their counsel was absent from court and the Magistrate refused to adjourn the case.

Appearing for the three European and one African soldiers was the Honourable S. B. Rhodes (now Mr Justice Rhodes). 11-22-45

The Guardian said that the labourers suffered from fright and, in the absence of their counsel, threw in the towel only to be asked to pay costs.

The first two who had started to wage legal battle without expert advice were asked to pay nine guineas costs, each, and the rest were ordered to pay ten shillings each, since they withdrew their charges.

(4) CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

Although the undertaking given by the Government in respect of criminal prosecutions against workers is ambiguous yet the general opinion is that no useful purpose will be served by continuing the prosecutions.

Nevertheless, the case at Port Harcourt was continued and the strikers were fined £15 each, there being 51 workers in all.

As feelings began to run high, the fines were remitted.

At Lagos, the long standing case against eight remaining technical workers was called up on October 15, and the Magistrate informed those present that the Police hav-

ing withdrawn the charges against them, they were discharged. 11-22-45

At Enugu, the ex-strikers who were previously fined £15 each, and which was alleged modified later to £5 each, had their fines remitted.

However, it is understood that the case of the ex-strikers at Zaria is still pending, as is the appeal of the Police in the case of a striker who was alleged to have been negligent in the performance of his duty, and who was discharged by the Magistrate, at Port Harcourt.

ATTITUDE OF WORKERS

In any case, it is plain that Government can cause all the pending cases to be withdrawn, if it feels that the calling off of the strike was based on the establishment of good faith on both sides on the basis of reciprocity.

It is true that the withdrawal of the case against the companions of Messrs Osindero and Garber, at Lagos, was a good gesture.

It is also true that the remission of the fines of the ex-strikers at Port Harcourt showed political wisdom.

But the fact that some of the ex-strikers have paid fines or had been convicted or must still face prosecution will always leave doubt in the minds of workers, whether by calling off the strike they had been bamboozled. 11-22-45

If that impression must be erased then there can be no tangible reason for continuing these prosecutions which are stale and no longer relevant to the labour disturbances facing Nigeria today.

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (35)

Veritably slashing was the succession of criticisms directed against the Nigerian government by the Negroes and Socialists of America

"COLONIAL FASCISM" FOLLOWED "BRITISH DESPOTS"

The Negro American press moved heaven and earth to bring to the full view of the world the attitude of the Nigerian government during the recent labour crisis; even the Potsdam meeting was informed of "colonial fascism" being rampant in Nigeria.

THE Caribbean archipelago also reacted to the news in respect of the General Strike in a way which was embarrassing to the governments of the British West Indies.

The Workers' League and the various members of the labour movement in St. Kitts were stunned by the refusal of the Government of Nigeria to grant the demands of the workers and also sympathised with Nnamdi Azikiwe on the alleged attempt on his life and the suppression of the two newspapers under his chairmanship.

A cablegram dated July 15 conveyed the sympathies of the workers of St. Kitts.

JAMAICA SETS EXAMPLE

According to an air mail despatch from London, the West African Pilot has reported that the workers of Jamaica "went on a day's strike in sympathy with their comrades in Nigeria."

Another West Indian colony was also reported in the local press to have followed the example of Jamaica.

In the meantime, I received a letter from Mrs A. Jacques Garvey, widow of the late Marcus Garvey, of Kingston, Jamaica, in which she expresses her opinion, which may be said to be typical West Indian opinion on the General Strike, as follows:

"We are still with our ears to the ground listening for news of you in this crisis.

"The political change in England is a bit heartening.

"We continue to give you and the Cause publicity so that the world is kept informed as to what is going on there.

"In America and elsewhere we are giving full expression during this summer month to the general cause of Africa, and also detailed attention to your leadership.

"It is a pity that you have had to suffer personal financial loss to attain such world-wide publicity and sympathy for your struggles.

"Do let me know how we can get some of your books, especially "Renascent Africa" ..... as the people are clamouring for Zik's books. .....

"I trust you are holding up under the strain, and that your family are spiritually strengthened during this your hour of trials.

"Best wishes for a successful culmination."

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The reaction in the United States was a combination of acrimony, rudeness, disgust, censure and violent attack on the colonial system of government and administration.

A "Joint Emergency Committee on Nigeria" was formed at the instance of the Council on African Affairs, Inc. (23 West 26th Street, New York) whose Chairman is Paul Robeson, and Executive Director is Dr Max Yergan.

The immediate programme of the Working Committee included:

"(1) Securing the lifting of the ban on the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, the two daily newspapers suppressed by the Governor's orders.

"(2) Enlisting the aid of labour unions and other organisations in America in effecting an equitable and democratic settlement of the labour strike in Nigeria, and the protection of the trade unions and their leaders.

"(3) Preparing a general statement on the political and economic situation in Nigeria for the information of the American public."

EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The constituents of this emergency committee were as follows:

(1) The African Academy of Arts and Research.

(2) The Council on African Affairs, Incorporated.

(3) The African Students Association of the United States and Canada.

(4) The Paragon Committee Association.

(5) The International Islamic Society.

(6) The African Goodwill Society of America.

(7) The National Council of the West Indies.

Other organisations had joined or co-operated also in the undertakings of this emergency committee.

The American Negro press rendered yeoman service not only in reprimanding those who were responsible for the catalogue of inequities which had landed Nigeria in the maelstrom of economic confusion, but also in spotlighting this greatest British West African dependency before the world and making it a cynosure of international opinion.

The Associated Negro Press, the Afro-American (Baltimore), the Chicago Defender, the Pittsburg Courier — these were among the newspapers whose pitiless publicity and relentless comments placed the General Strike in Nigeria in the forefront of international news to the Negro world in America.

In an article, the Pittsburg Courier described the Nigerian labour fiasco as "Terror in Nigeria."

The Chicago Defender gave the salient facts and placed the causes of the strike in their true perspective.

The Afro-American, as enterprising as ever, sent a cablegram to the Zik's Press, signed by Vincent Tubbs (who visited Nigeria recently in company of P. B. Young, Junior, of the Norfolk Journal and Guide), urging us to "give us latest facts in re strike."

AMERICAN SOCIALISTS

It is from the American Socialists, white and black, that the most acrimonious criticisms were forthcoming.

In a despatch with a London date-line, the Militant of July 21, carried an article on the Nigerian labour disturbances with the headline "British Despots in Nigeria Ban Native Papers."

The opening paragraph of this news item read:

"Two Negro-edited newspapers which have espoused the cause of the terribly oppressed and exploited population of the country have been suppressed....."

This act was described as "oppressive" and it was published that the Socialist Workers Party and the Civil Rights Defence Committee of the United States have been apprised of the threat on my life and that they have taken appropriate action to publicise the news among the following organisations:

(1) Congress of Industrial Organisation.

(2) Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters.

(3) National Urban League.

(4) National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

(5) Congressman Clayton Powell (New York).

(6) Congressman Arthur W. Mitchell (Chicago).

"COLONIAL FASCISM"

It was also indicated that cables had been dispatched "to the Big Three leaders in Berlin, informing them that colonial fascism is rampant in Nigeria."

It ended by intimating that other civic and religious groups had been kept informed of the developments in Nigeria in order to "mobilise public sentiment throughout America on behalf of Azikiwe and the strikers by sending telegrams of protest to Governor Richards of Nigeria and the Colonial Office in London."

In its issue of July 28, the Militant stated that the National Secretary of the Socialist Workers Party had dispatched a cablegram to the Colonial Office protesting against the arrest of 10 or more labour leaders in Lagos, the suppression of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, the threat on the life of "Nnamdi Azikiwe, publisher of the suppressed p

and General Secretary of the National Council of Nigeria."

It remarked, however, that "The capitalist press in this country has carried not a line of news about the great Nigerian strike and the repressive actions of the British authorities."

This lacuna gave the Socialist and the American Negro press opportunity to score what tantamounts to a scoop, for the General Strike of Nigeria, lasting 44 days, is unique in the annals of labour problems in modern and contemporary times.

Excellent Discipline Of The Rhodesian Strikers Deteats Aim Of Government

Commission Set Up To Conduct Enquiry

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

West African Pilot

LONDON—Despite every provocation by certain Europeans so as to give government an excuse of using the military to maintain "law and order," the workers of Rhodesia on strike maintained excellent discipline. 12-1-45

There was no violence.

The strike leaders formed squads of orderlies who entered native compounds and destroyed all ingredients for making beer, so as not to allow the strikers to get drunk and cause incidents. Lagos

The strike committee organised football games to provide recreation for the men.

Like in most colonies, wages in Rhodesia are shocking.

The average African wage on the railways is about twenty-eight shillings per month, plus rations and free room.

The strikers wanted a minimum wage of three shillings per day to seven shillings per day for skilled work.

They agreed to provide their own rations.

Employers refused to agree to these demands, asserting that Africans did not know how to use money and, if given more wages, would spend it on drink and would suffer from malnutrition. Lagos

Faced with this deadlock, the Prime Minister has resorted to the time-honoured British custom of appointing a commission to enquire into the trouble.

The commission is headed by Judge Robert Clarkson Tredgold and the Africans are "represented" on the commission by a missionary, Rev. Percy Ibbotsen.

The strike is still going on up to the time of writing this dispatch.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This series of two reports from our London correspondent (the first instalment of which appeared in our issue of yesterday) seems to contain one or two points which require clarification, locally.

The first is that relating to the appointment of commissions.

Judged from local official communiques, the two commissions of inquiry into the cost of living allowance and salaries were appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

The second point refers to the vote of "no confidence" in the administration. 12-1-45

As far as we know, it was the workers who, at a mass meeting held at Oko Awo on August 22, 1945, passed a resolution of "no confidence" in five top ranking officials.

YOUNG AFRICANS SEEK INDUSTRIAL PROGRAM

New York Times

Young Africans are beginning to think of the industrialization of their country, Kingsley Mbadiwe, president of the African Academy of Arts and Research, said yesterday at the second of a series of six lectures on African problems in the American Museum of Natural History. Referring to his own country, Nigeria, West Africa, Mr. Mbadiwe said that it was in need of broader and friendlier contacts with American industry. N.Y.C.

Mr. Mbadiwe declared that the younger African "who thinks" is decided upon the industrialization of Africa as a necessary step to improve the life of his people, and to that end, African youth are going abroad for education in technical skills as never before.

In the Union of South Africa said Henry M. Moolman, director of the Union of South Africa Government Information Office in New York, "are proud of what has been achieved in the most heavily industrialized part of the continent." 12-9-45

"We have made considerable strides in industrial legislation in South Africa and toward the betterment of labor conditions generally," Mr. Moolman said, but admitted that "a good deal of this legislation concerns the technical industries and does not apply in toto to the African [native] workers, the great majority of whom are still doing unskilled work."

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (36)

Of no less definiteness than that of the Americans was the reaction of Britain to the Nigerian labour deadlock

SILENCE REIGNED OVER THE CAPITALIST PRESS

Having summarised the reaction of the Negroes and Socialists of America, Zik today proceeds to describe how the news of the June 1945 Nigerian General Strike was received by Negroes and other well-wishers in Britain.

BEFORE describing the repercussion in England on the Nigerian labour situation, let me conclude the reaction in America by referring to three statements which were published in the Pittsburg Courier of July 14, 1945, which is reputed to be the biggest Negro weekly paper in the world and which amply sums up America's reaction.

F. D. Roosevelt: "The unity of Nations fighting for a free world includes men of every colour and race.

Herbert Agar: "Peace is not the absence of war; Peace is the presence of justice."

Nwafor Orizu: "England will make the greatest blunder of all times if she truly believes that 'good boys' in Africa will continue to swallow all manner of political and economic filth with which we have been fed for nearly a century.

"The days of accepting the gospel of 'His Majesty's Policy' as God-sent are gone."

THE UNITED KINGDOM

Like the United States, the capitalist press in England, generally speaking, maintained a conspiracy of silence on the general strike in Nigeria but, unlike the Americans, the press lords of Great Britain sent a special correspondent to Lagos, to obtain all relevant facts about the strike for the Kelmsley Group.

The journals which have expressed opinions in respect of the strike, among others, are The Economist, Tribune, The New Leader (organ of the Independent Labour Party), Empire: Journal of the Fabian Colonial Bureau, News Letter of the League of Coloured Peoples.

The Economist blamed the British press for lack of interest and indifference towards the strike and showed that the remote and immediate causes deserved scientific investigation with a view to solution.

The Tribune and the New Leader were factual and critical.

Empire urged the Colonial Office to prevent further outbursts of this nature by coping decisively with the problem.

News Letter challenged the right of any nation to allow its subjects to live below the minimum of subsistence level, thus giving cause to social unrest and labour disturbances.

PAN-AFRICAN FEDERATION

Under the leadership of the Pan-African Federation, a great meeting was held in Conway Hall, London, where "a pledge of solidarity was taken unanimously in support of this fight by the oppressed peoples of Nigeria" (quoting from the New Leader of July 21, 1945).

A collection of over £90 was contributed from the audience, composed mainly of Africans or people of African descent.

It also reported that "profits will be sent to relieve distress among the Nigerian strikers."

Some of the speakers emphasised that the present situation in Nigeria was symptomatic "of the general evil of imperialism."

Mr George Padmore, well-known author and journalist, was reported to have asserted:

"It is occasions like these that mark the forward march of the common peoples towards their national freedom and social emancipation.

"It is occasions like these that test men's souls."

BLANK EDITORIAL PAGES

In an article in the Tribune, which was a fairly accurate analysis of the material facts of the General Strike, Mr Padmore alleged that "When the strike started, the Governor was in London holding consultations with officials at the Colonial Office.

"He immediately flew back to West Africa to take charge of the situation."

This statement has yet to be refuted, to my knowledge.

The article also referred to the re-imposition of the Defence Regulations; "As a protest against this suppression of free opinion, the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, two of the leading Nigerian dailies, appeared with their editorial pages blank.

"Now both these papers have been suppressed for criticising certain union leaders who are advocating an approach to the Governor.

"The Government, on the other hand, issues a daily bulletin edited by the Public Relations Office, presenting the official point of view."

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM

In its issue of July 28, the New Leader published an article entitled "Nigeria Fights for Freedom," written by Mr Oladipo Davies, Secretary-General of the West African Students Union of Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr Davies outlined the circumstances of the strike, explaining how Nigeria's rich, natural resources had attracted imperialistic exploiters. He added that in spite of the fact that less than one-twentieth of the Nigerian population were victims of "wage-labour" which, "in its European sense, is a recent importation which is unattractive to a simple people who value personal freedom above all else," yet the peasantry had been neglected by the parsimonious prices paid for our primary products and the payment of higher wages to wage-earners, comparatively.

In his opinion, the explanation of the Government that increased cost of living allowance would cause inflation "is clearly tendentious and wholly unacceptable in view of the discrimination shown in favour of its European employees."

DR HAROLD A. MOODY

In its news letter of August, 1945, the League of Coloured Peoples, under the leadership of Dr Harold A. Moody, published the following candid, if provocative observations and comments, which may be said to be a fair consensus of opinion of peoples of African descent who are domiciled in the British Isles:

"The rising costs of living have affected people all over the world, and provision has had to be made accordingly.

"It was therefore not altogether unexpected that indigenous workers would sooner or later feel the pinch and make their demands.....

"The Secretary of State assures us that he is quite satisfied that the action of the Governor, H. E. Sir Arthur Richards, is correct in the circumstances, but we would like to know that he has taken measures to discover whether or not the aids adopted to alleviate the abnormal situation are adequate to remove from the shoulders of our fellow citizens in Nigeria, human beings like ourselves, an intolerable burden.

MOCKING GOD'S CREATION

"We are also anxious to know that suitable enquiries are now being instituted so that when the men now serving with the colours return home there will not be another economic crisis in the colony.

"We are not asking for the impossible either way, but we do say categorically that any system which condemns the masses of the people of any country to live below the poverty line is immoral, and unjust, uneconomical, and unworthy of the British Empire, and should be exchanged at whatever cost, for it ultimately defeats its own purpose.

"The great Creator of mankind did not mock his creation by condemning them to a sub-human state of things, and the British Government must see to it that this is not the case, either in Nigeria or in any other part of Britain's vast domain."

PUBLIC OPINION

PWD WORKERS ON THE KUMBA-MAMFE ROAD

By A. NNYONG
West African Pilot

With due respect, I wish to call the attention of the Director of Public Works to the irregularity that has been going on among the African staff in the Kumba–Mamfe road construction.

This construction started on March 10, 1943, since which period African and European staff were posted to take charge of duties on the construction. 11-12-45

Since then about five European members of the staff have been posted for duty in connection with this construction and none of them stays longer than six months in this bush.

But for the two European probationer engineers who arrived here about two months ago all the European staff posted for duty here have had to leave the construction on the completion of or before six months. Nigeria

Is there any reason why the African workers posted to this construction since 1943 are kept here till now without a change?

A construction of this nature is a most strenuous undertaking, and if the interest of the health of the European staff has made the department to arrange their changes in this manner, are the African staff not exhaustible?

Why must the donkey's work always be the job of the African staff when his European co-worker does but little?

A European worker taking up duty in the bush greatly swells his income, for he draws allowance for inhabiting an unfurnished quarter, whereas an African taking up duty in the bush has the only so called allowance COLA, given him further reduced. Lagos, Nigeria

The African staff in Kumba station receive 40 per cent COLA, those on the Kumba-Mamfe road construction under Kumba Division receive 25 per cent even though these men live on Kumba fragment. 11-12-45

It is thought wise to compensate the European staff for the amenities enjoyed by those in the township, but when it comes to the African staff the thought reverses.

It is hoped the Honourable Director of Public Works will amend these indifferences to the taste of all under his auspicious regime.

KUMBA.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (66)

Lagos, West African

"Consider the number of peoples sacked for one reason or another since the strike was called off"

WITH THIS COMPARE ANY PRE-STRIKE DISMISSALS

West African Pilot

Today, Zik begins the discussion of the losses sustained by the workers by going on strike, and observes, with regard to the strike being ill-timed or otherwise, that "it is possible that had the workers waited till the first of the ensuing month before going on strike, a Government which is empowered by the Emergency Act, 1939 and 1940, can stop at nothing when it comes to making defence regulations".

WE COME now to the losses sustained by the workers as a result of their going on strike. 12-6-45

Briefly, they are as follows:

(1) Wages during the strike
(2) Official favour
(3) Security in the tenure of their employment
(4) Weak-kneed leadership
(5) Solidarity of the labour movement in Nigeria
(6) Confidence of traditional but influential segments of Nigerian society.

WAS STRIKE ILL-TIMED?

In view of the fact that the strike took place on June 22, it has been suggested that this was ill-timed, in view of the poverty of the average African worker.

It is held that had the strike been timed to take place from July 1, or early in the month, the workers would have been in a better position, financially speaking.

To an extent, this view is true, but we have to reckon with historical events and also psychological factors in the labour problems of Nigeria.

It is possible that had the workers waited until the first of the ensuing month before going on strike, a Government which is empowered by the Emergency Act, 1939 and 1940, can stop at nothing when it comes to making defence regulations.

PAYMENT FOR JUNE

Again, we have to reckon with the fact that, under the leadership of Messrs Bankole and company, a security fund had been inaugurated by the workers, making preparations for the zero hour.

We have to concede, therefore, that the workers were conscious of the factors and were prepared to face the consequences.

It remains, therefore, to be seen what effect this strike has had on their earning capacity.

Their pay for June had been subjected to negotiations between the Government and the strikers.

At first it was officially held that payment for June would be forfeited.

Later, it was officially admitted that the workers would be entitled to their June wages, up to and including June 21.

WAGES DURING STRIKE

Workers, however, are still pressing for payment of their wages during the period of the strike.

Government has countered that it is not historical.

In other words, the practice of paying strikers for the period they were on strike is not done elsewhere.

So far there has been a deadlock on this issue and neither the Government nor the workers are prepared to yield a quarter. 12-6-45

Since the matter is pending, it is permissible to say that, ad interim, the income which the workers should have earned during the period they went on strike, represents a liability in their balance sheet of the strike.

OFFICIAL FAVOUR

As I have pointed out previously, the anomalous position of Government (a) as employer of labour and (b) as agent of the Colonial Office charged with the maintenance of law and order in Nigeria, is to the disadvantage of the workers, because in a dual capacity such an institution can coerce workers to do its will.

In spite of the many abuses already chronicled, it is clear that the workers have lost official favour.

Sir Gerald Whiteley, Officer Administering the Government, in his broadcast of June 29, described the strike as "anti-social act" thus showing that workers were in official disfavour.

Whilst Sir Gerald's view is false, because an economic weapon like strike was conceived with a view to hastening social change and progress, he qualified his criticisms of the strike by asserting that by going on strike the workers had shown themselves to be unworthy of confidence.

ANTI-CONTRACTUAL ACT

Sir Gerald also viewed the strike as anti contractual.

He said that "By striking as they have done, in defiance of the terms of their contracts, they have failed to realise the duty which they in turn owe to their employers and the general public, and they have thus laid themselves open to the charge that they are not yet ready to take the responsibility which has been given them — that they are not worthy of the confidence reposed in them."

From the above statement, Sir Gerald showed that since strike is regarded by him as an anti-social and anti-contractual act, the strikers had lost official favour by striking, for that left impression that they lacked a sense of responsibility.

One can afford to leave out the issue as to what constitutes "a sense of responsibility" in view of the actions of both parties to the dispute.

TENURE OF EMPLOYMENT 12-6-45

Linked up with loss of official favour is also fear in the security of the employment of the worker.

Naturally, if one loses the favour of one's employer, the security of one's tenure of employment would be in doubt.

That was precisely the case of the Nigerian wage-earner at the ending of the strike.

In spite of promises, pledges and other forms which formed what, in the language of Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor (as alleged by Sir E. Goschen in a letter to Sir Edward Grey, British Prime Minister), constituted "a scrap of paper," the workers were let down, so to speak.

When now, the series of victimizations which have been indicated are taken into consideration, one cannot but feel with the workers that they must be living in constant fear of insecurity of the tenure of their jobs.

Such a state must be disastrous to the labour organisation of any country.

CATALOGUE OF "SACKS"

Consider the number of

peoples "sacked" for one reason or another, since the strike was called off.

Reconcile this number with the number of those "sacked" before the strike.

Definitely, one is yet to be convinced that all those "sacks" are necessary or justifiable.

The only logical conclusion is that they were evidence of victimization, in spite of the Chief Secretary's circular to heads of departments, and in spite of departmental and General Orders.

This catalogue of "sacks" is a shame on our economic policy.

It has made the Nigerian wage-earner to lose official favour and to be insecure in his job, simply because he went on strike.

VERY BAD ECONOMICS

It is very bad economics to regard strike as an anti-social act.

It is worse still when people are victimised because they exercised their right of collective bargaining.

So far as I have been able to ascertain this economic weapon known as "strike" is a right and not a privilege.

Like all other rights, if it is not well exercised there is always a remedy.

Instead of being satisfied with the legal remedy which Government had sought, the workers complained that they were victimized.

Thus they lost official favour and became insecure in their employment which should not have been the case in any progressive society.

To be continued

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (68)

Lagos, W. Africa

The indifference exhibited by clerical and non-government technical workers was an evidence of one weakness —

ABSENCE OF SOLIDARITY AMONG NIGERIAN WORKERS

West African Pilot

"The fact that Mr T A Bankole characterised the general strike as 'unauthorised' and proceeded to allocate blame," and the error which the workers committed by allowing only the government technicians to go on strike, were both indications of lack of solidarity among the ranks of the workers.

12-8-45

SOLIDARITY of the labour movement in Nigeria was another liability in the balance sheet of the strike, from the point of view of the workers.

The fact that Mr T. A. Bankole characterised the general strike as "unauthorised" and proceeded to allocate blame is very ominous indeed.

In the interest of solidarity of the labour movement in Nigeria he should have adopted a different tactic in order to vindicate the part played by him.

A holier-than-thou attitude is not always the best method of approach to such a human problem.

There can be no doubt that Mr Bankole played an active part in the evolution of trade unionism in Nigeria.

For that, he has already carved his name immortal in the annals of Nigerian economics. 12-8-45

WASHING DIRTY LINENS

By exposing certain situation which he thought caused the Government or the public to misunderstand his position, he made matters worse.

After all, he posed as a labour leader, and not as a journalist or lawyer or legislator.

That being the case, he must expect brickbats from workers as well as non workers.

By acting the way he did, he created fissure within the labour movement, for the washing of dirty linens in public is never a desirable policy always.

Unfortunately, in his case, it has left an impression that he might be courting official favour, which cannot necessarily be the case.

THE INEVITABLE SPLIT

When, therefore, there was a split in the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria, it took all the tact and intelligence at the disposal of the workers to get many sections of the wage earning class to appreciate the need for solidarity within the labour movement at such a crucial hour in our economic history.

When certain officers of the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria published in the local press matter which was calculated to give impression of split within the congress, that militated against the best interest of the workers.

The election of new officers and re-election of certain officers were a redeeming feature of the whole mess.

Nevertheless, the split was inevitable, since Mr Bankole, in my opinion, is not a leader of the "doer" type, although it must be conceded that he is a "schemer" without doubt, and since his return from the United Kingdom, he has proved himself to be a "dreamer" as well.

ONE FATAL ERROR

Another evidence of lack of solidarity in the Nigerian trade union movement is that the general strike was staged by the technical workers of the civil service, that is, Government technical workers.

It is true that the official figure for the strike is put at 30,000, nevertheless, the technical workers engaged in other establishments of a non-Government nature were apparently unconcerned.

As for the clerical workers, Government and non-Government, they gave impression of being satisfied with their lot and so they were beyond the pale of the tentacles of the "general" strike.

Whether the way the clerical workers and non Government technical workers reacted to the strike was good, bad or indifferent, is irrelevant to this topic, suffice it to say that their complacency was evidence of lack of solidarity within the ranks of Nigerian trade unionism.

This was a fatal error on the part of the dreamers and schemers of the Nigerian labour movement.

They should have realised that labour, in its struggle with capitalism, is indivisible.

WHAT MARX SAID

What Karl Marx, who with Friederich Engels, in their historic "Communist Manifesto" appealed to the workers of the world to unite, said, in this connection, in the resolution of the International Workingmen's Association, which was held at Geneva, in 1866, are as follows:

"In addition to their original tasks, the trade unions must now learn how to act consciously as focal points for organising the working class in the greater interests of its complete emancipation.

"They must support every social and political movement directed towards this aim.

"By considering themselves champions and representatives of the whole working class, and acting accordingly, the trade unions must succeed in rallying round themselves all workers still outside their ranks.

"They must carefully safeguard the interests of the workers in the poorest paid trades, as, for example, the farm labourers, who due to especially unfavourable circumstances, have been deprived of their power of resistance. 12-8-45

"They must convince the whole world that their efforts are far from narrow and egoistic, but on the contrary, are directed towards the emancipation of the downtrodden masses."

WHAT WORKERS DID

The workers of Nigeria left the burden of the general strike on the shoulders of the African Civil Servants Technical Workers Union.

The Nigerian Civil Service Union and the other sympathising unions, including the Amalgamated Mercantile Workers Union failed to grasp this doctrine of Marx.

I do not say that they should have gone on strike, but I say that by their not going on strike, legal and other factors notwithstanding, the labour movement in Nigeria was proved to be lacking in solidarity.

This ws a liability in the balance sheet of the strike, so far as it concerns the Nigerian workers.

MARX AND ENGELS

Marx and Engels in "The

Communist Manifesto" make it quite clear that the struggle of wage-earners cannot be isolated, but must be a mass movement, if it is to succeed.

"Now and then the workers are victorious, but only for a time. 12-8-45

"The real fruit of their battle lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers.

"This union is helped on by the improved means of communication that are created by modern industry, and that place the workers of different localities in contact with another.

"It was just this contact that was needed to centralize the numerous local struggles, all of the same character, into one national struggle between classes."

To be continued.

INSIDE STUFF by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (67)

The dreamers and schemers among the workers of Nigeria were compelled to give way for men of action

THUS DID THE MEN LOSE WEAK-KNEED LEADERSHIP

12-7-45 West African Pilot 12-7-45

Being unprepared for trade unionism in the days when Wallace Johnson came to Nigeria, the workers continued to dream and later to scheme, until the time came for doers among them to go into action; but the weak-kneed dreamers and schemers had to give way for men of action like labour leader Imoudu and his colleagues.

Lagos, Nigeria

AS A result of the general strike, the workers lost weak-kneed leadership.

History shows that in the development of any country, there are usually three types of leadership which are sine qua non to healthy and normal development.

There must be "Dreamers" to dream dreams and see visions of a new order.

There must be "Schemers" to plan and make designs and blue prints of this new order.

And there must be "Doers" to bring the dream and design into reality.

THE THREE TYPES

Throughout the study of history, it is difficult to find a "dreamer" becoming a "schemer" and "doer."

It is given to very few human beings.

Nevertheless, dreamers, schemers and doers are essential and important ingredients to dynamic leadership.

Without the dreamer, there would be no idea for the schemer to design for planning.

Without the schemer, dreams will remain in the realm of ideas.

And without the doer, the dream which furnished data for the blue-print will not become concrete

OUR WALLACE JOHNSON

In the history of trade unionism in Nigeria, leadership material has always presented itself as a problem to the sociologist.

With the irrepressible Wallace Johnson may be said to be the origin of modern trade unionism in Nigeria.

He was a schemer and doer.

He was betrayed.

He was persecuted.

And he was forced to leave Jerusalem to its inhabitants, just as did Jesus and other great leaders of history.

The fact remained that Wallace Johnson came to Nigeria when the wage earners of Nigeria were not ready for trade unionism.

He came prepared to scheme and to do, without any dream.

That lacuna in Nigerian labour leadership made Wallace Johnson's excellent plans to collapse, before the edifice could be erected.

But Wallace Johnson had played his part: at least he got Nigerians thinking and the rulers of Nigerians guessing.

ENTER THE DREAMERS

Not quite a decade, dreamers began to dream dreams and to see visions of a new Nigeria dedicated to the redemption of Nigerian labour, in concert with other segments of Nigerian society, from the thraldom of penury and economic exploitation.

Many African dreamers and schemers came into the forefront and their various philosophies formed the basis of a labour front which engendered in the Nigerian wage earner consciousness of kind

Manifestoes were prepared calling upon the Nigerian wage-earner to unite and cast the chains of economic servitude aside.

Workers were organised and clerical workers were urged to appreciate a common destiny with technical workers.

In the meantime, the Trade Union Ordinance was enacted, thus guaranteeing to the Nigerian worker the right of collective bargaining.

ENTER THE SCHEMERS

This was opportunity for the schemers.

Trade Unions were formed and these were directed towards one goal, the betterment of the Nigerian worker.

From individual trade unions were developed collective trade unions, which led to the formation of a Trades Union Congress of Nigeria.

The programme of labour emancipation had been dreamt of and schemed by dreamers and schemers, but it remained the stage of ACTION by the "doers."

In 1941-42, the Nigerian worker tried to test its "Doers" and succeeded, thanks to the magnanimity of a very sensible administrator.

When, however, the programme of action was launched, subsequently, the dreamers and schemers gave way to the doers, who had to pay the penalty.

One doer was Michael Artokhamen Ominus Imoudu.

His entry into the battle of trade unionism in Nigeria was as ominous as his struggles in order to emancipate the Nigerian workers.

NOW FOR THE DOERS

When the general strike was dreamt and designed, Messrs Bankole and company were there.

Some of them were dreamers and some of them were schemers.

But when the time came for action they proved themselves wanting.

There was no doer among them.

They may be said to be weak-kneed, psychologically speaking.

They had to give way to the doers — the leaders with a stout heart, who having put their shoulders to the wheel had no intention of either going back on their words or of turning back.

IMOUDU AND COMPANY

The workers thus substituted Imoudu and company for Bankole and company and proceeded to carry out their programme of action.

I regard the leadership of Bankole and company as very desirable in the evolution of Nigerian trade unionism, so far as the events leading to the period of their resignation from leadership of the workers, for purposes of the general strike, was concerned.

Even then, they deserve the thanks of workers for having led them thus far.

But a leader must sound the pulse of his followers and not allow the latter to advance ahead of him.

I think that was the tactical error of Bankole and company.

They led the workers to a certain pitch and then allowed the workers to overtake them.

That is no leadership; it is a signification of followership.

LEADERS MUST LEAD

A leader must always lead until he becomes weak-kneed, then he has to give place to a comrade-in-arms — stouter in heart, head and hand.

Thus, as a result of the strike, the workers lost the weak-kneed leadership of certain dreamers and schemers, embracing the active leadership of doers.

Lord Tennyson in the Idylls of the King said:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,

And God fulfils himself in many ways,

Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

Thus, by swapping horses at mid-stream, the workers lost weak-kneed leadership in their balance sheet.

It is true Abraham Lincoln in a speech did say that "It is not best to swap horses while crossing the river."

But John N. Groom, a contemporary writer, has said: "When you're in the middle of the stream and the horse starts riding you, it's time to change horses."

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (69)

— West African Pilot 12-10-45

"The traditional but influential segments of Nigerian society" were indifferent towards the cause of the strikers

BARRING FEW PROFESSIONALS AND A NATURAL RULER

Lagos, Nigeria

The array of natural rulers of the eastern, western and northern provinces, ministers of religion, members of the Executive and Legislative Councils, the various professional classes, all were alike in their passive and indifferent attitude towards the workers, which attitude indicated that the latter had lost their confidence and sympathy.

BY GOING on strike, the workers of Nigeria lost the confidence of traditional, but influential, segments of Nigerian society.

Who and what constitute the "traditional, but influential, segments of Nigerian society?"

Anything "traditional" takes one to social origins of any people — their customs and mores.

So I refer to natural rulers (Chiefs), spiritual rulers (the Church), legislators (Members of the Legislative Council), advisers (Members of the Executive Council), professional class or the bourgeoisie.

NATURAL RULERS

It is significant that, in spite of the fact that there are thousands of natural rulers in Nigeria, including emirs, obas, obis. etc., only Chief Amobi, the Igwe of Ogidi, and a former member of the Legislative Council for ten years, had the moral courage to say that the workers of Nigeria were exploited and that efforts should be made to improve their standard of living.

The natural rulers of the emirates of the north were silent; the natural rulers of the kingdoms of the Western Provinces behaved in a very questionable manner; the natural rulers of the republics of the Eastern Provinces maintained a studied silence.

Were these Chiefs afraid to express their opinions?

Were these Chiefs ignorant of the factors leading to the strike?

Were these Chiefs so isolated from the wage-earners that they do not realise the sufferings, the yearnings, and the way of life of these wage-earners?

CHURCH AND MOSQUE

The role of the church is yet to be appreciated, so far as the general strike is concerned.

With the possible exception of His Lordship the Right Reverend Bertram Lasbrey, Bishop-on-the Niger, who advised the workers to go back to work, the church as a whole maintained dignified silence, although there were sermons in certain churches urging the workers to obey the earthly powers in order to qualify for paradise when they died.

As a matter of fact, one of the Muslim leaders in Lagos actually promised the Officer Administering the Government that he would preach to his fellow Ahmadiyyats to resume duty without further ado.

Naturally, the workers had to ponder whether the church and the mosque were oblivious of the economic hardship of the average worker which had been intensified by the way? 12-10-45

LEGCO MEMBERS

With the possible exception of the Venerable and Honourable E. T. Dimieari, the Member for Rivers Division, who said that the 20 per cent cost of living allowance was parsimonious and so workers must not accept it, the whole members of the Legislative Council, African and non-African, nominated and elected, official and unofficial, would appear to have acquiesced in the stand taken by the Government.

Does that mean that our legislators disagreed with the views and methods of the workers of Nigeria?

Does it imply lack of interest?

Perhaps some of them might raise some questions in the Legislative Council in respect of certain aspects of the strike.

But that is fact-finding.

What the workers want is active sympathy and positive interest.

AND EXCO MEMBERS

There are two Africans on the Executive Council, in addition to others.

The Honourable Stephen Bankole Rhodes, C.B.E., now a Puisne Judge in the Supreme Court of Nigeria, did confront an irate crowd of strikers in Port Harcourt and elsewhere in the Eastern Provinces and attempted to advise them to return to work.

He appealed to them on numerous occasions to have confidence in the Government and go back to work.

Whether he was successful or not cannot be discussed now, the fact remains that if he had felt that the workers were in the right, he would undoubtedly have said so.

Although, he did metion that he agreed with the view that Nigeria suffered from "very bad leaders and bad followers."

In view of the silence or silent activities of the other members of the Executive Council, it must be assumed that they did not approve of the stand taken by the workers.

PROFESSIONAL CLASSES

Among the numerous professional classes in Nigeria, only very few of them came out in the open, either to support the cause of the workers or to call attention of Government to what might be fairly regarded as an advantage. 12-10-45

Some lawyers offered their services free of charge both in the Colony and in the Eastern Provinces; so I am told, and if it is true, then they deserve commendation.

Some physicians did appeal to the workers and to the Government to settle their differences; Dr Akinola Maja, Dr Kofoworola Abayomi and Dr O. Ajibade, for example.

Some ministers of religion also joined certain peace missions in order to reconcile both parties.

Most of the journalists pleaded the cause of the workers, advising Government, castigating where it is necessary, and some of them had to be victimized.

As for the other members of the professional classes, who may be rightly termed the "bourgeoisie" of Nigeria, they were either afraid of indifferent, although some of them did subscribe to relief funds for the workers on strike and played other roles in encouraging the strikers.

THE INTERPRETATION

There is only one interpretation I can give to the studied indifference of these traditional but influential segments of Nigerian society

to the general strike: lack of interest.

I may be wrong; but certainly, when as many as 30,000 workers are on strike because they feel that they had not been fairly dealt with; surely, it is the business of the traditional segments of Nigerian society to make a stir and give support in active, as distinct from passive terms.

I feel that the passive action of the bourgeoisies of Nigeria is symptomatic of what is happening elsewhere on earth, to which Nigeria is no exception.

But in order to avoid the wage-earners of Nigeria, that is our proletariat, to feel that none bothers about their happiness, it is essential that there must be a change of outlook and attitude.

The fact that our chiefs, church dignitaries, legislators, and professional men and women, as a whole, showed such a studied reticence during the strike, is portentous.

I put it liberally to mean that they did not agree with the workers, and that the latter had lost their confidence.

This appears to be correct, viewed from the broader perspectives of history.

KARL MARX AGAIN

Here I must refer to the "Communist Manifesto" once more. 12-10-45

"Among all the classes that confront the bourgeoisie today, the proletariat alone is really revolutionary.

"Other classes decay and perish with the rise of large scale industry, but the proletariat is the most characteristic product of that industry."

In other words, if there must be real change in the social order, it must come alone through the workers, and not through the traditional "big guns," bigwigs, tycoons, moguls, etc. of our present society. 12-10-45

To be continued.

1a-1945

INSIDE STUFF — by ZIK

HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE (65)

Lagos, West Africa

Command of the respect of both African and European employers and the emergence of dynamic leadership,

THESE ALSO WERE VALUABLE GAINS OF THE WORKERS

West African Pilot

In spite of unfounded reports depicting the optimism of a certain class over the determination and ability of the workers to go on strike, the latter did surprise their employers by taking a step which, besides earning for them their employers' respect, signalised the emergence of a trade union leadership never before so dynamic. 12-5-45

ANOTHER gain of the strikers which must be entered in the assets column of the workers in the balance sheet of the strike is the respect which their employers have been compelled to have for them.

Whilst I am not discussing the ethics of the strike, yet I say that it had made the workers of Nigeria to command the respect of their employers.

LAGOS FABRICATIONS

Sometime before and during the strike, it was freely discussed in Lagos that certain people wagered that the Nigerian workers only made noise, under the leadership of certain professional agitators and hotheads, but as soon as the showdown came, the agitators would vamoose and the strikers would scram helter-skelter.

So far as I am concerned, it is a figment of the imagination to believe that certain people could have wagered thus.

But if it is true, then it is a disclosure of crass ignorance of the mind of the contemporary Nigerian worker.

The Nigerian worker is docile and respectful.

He believes that work must be done in an atmosphere of cordiality and obedience.

YES SIR!

As the Ibo man says, "Yessa ade s'okwu" ("Yes sir, does not create ill feeling).

In other words, if one's boss orders one to do a certain piece of job, obedience is to be anticipated.

But obedience in the workshop or at the farm need not be misunderstood to imply acquiescence in evil, under all circumstances, and it must not be distorted to mean that the Nigerian worker is such a bloody fool and silly ass that he cannot distinguish between lawful and unlawful orders.

That is where those who pose to be authorities, so far as the African mind is concerned, are wrong; they think that they know, but they don't realise that they fall in the category of the Arabian proverb: "Those who know not and know not that they know not."

SENSE OF JUSTICE

The African, be he a worker or otherwise, has a sense of justice, of ethics, if you please.

He will obey his employer and work hard, if he must, but cannot tolerate injustice under any circumstance.

Because the Westerner misunderstands him, that is no reason why he must be portrayed as a backboneless jelly fish.

It would seem to any student of African "Kultur-Kreise" that the present facade of Western civilization, together with the social and political problems raised by modern imperialism in Africa and in the colonial world, is tending to destroy the soul of the African as a being who is deeply steeped in the tenets of religiosity, and to distort his ethos.

The African views life pragmatically and this conception has enabled him to evolve a simple but practical system of philosophy.

Thus his metaphysics and cosmology have made him the victim of unparalleled brutality in the long annals of human development.

AFRICAN EPISTEMOLOGY

African contemporary epistemology is an answer to the adverse effect of the Western way of life and philosophy on the African, and it is an honest and vital attempt to adapt his way of life to the social forces from without.

If this results in giving a distorted view of African philosophy, then the African cannot help it; it is for those who wish to probe into his mind and his social ethos to disabuse their minds of erroneous misconceptions about the African.

The African may appear to be docile and weak, — or as Marshal Smuts crudely put it, "Next to the ass, the most patient of all animals is the Negro" — yet this appearance of docility and weakness can be said to be a mask which Africans have worn through centuries of oppression and repression of the most heinous type, perpetrated by other animals which claim to belong, with the African, to the human family.

I believe and I know that one day the mask we wear must come off in toto, as it is coming off in bits now, as sure as the dawn follows the dusk.

Then shall the world realise that far from patience and docility being the sole repertoire of the ass, it is also a quadruped which can kick with ferocity.

That day seems to be in the none-too-distant horizon.

And when it comes, as surely it must, the world will be shaken up from its present stupor and be obliged to accept the African as a human being who is entitled to live on the plane of social equality with all races of mankind, and who is destined to play his role in the transformation of human relations, from one of lamb and wolf to one of lion and the child, as envisaged by the Old Prophets during the historic captivity in Babylon.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

When now, the Government of Nigeria, like Zeus, settled in the clouds, unmindful of what happened among the inhabitants of terra firma, hoping that, on bended knees the workers would come a-begging, as may be the belief of typical Uncle Toms and chronic imperialists, the workers shook off the soporifics of Uncle Tomism and stuck to their guns.

For doing this, they commanded the respect of their employers who had to negotiate with them on a plane of equality.

Not only is this a moral victory for the strikers; it is also for all the workers of Nigeria, because the strike has made all employers of labour, African and non-African, big or small, official or unofficial, to respect the Nigerian wage-earner and to treat him with seriousness when he makes a threat which would have a tendency to affect labour relations.

It is portentous of the signs of the times and also a re-

flection of the type of leadership in Nigerian trade unionism.

DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP

Dynamic leadership was a gain of the workers, as a result of the strike.

When Messrs Bankole and company left the mantle of leadership of the Nigerian workers, it was symbolically, the curtain fall of the old leadership of the Nigerian labour movement.

Individually, I respect Messrs Bankole and company, but as leaders of the workers, at such a critical time in the economic history of Nigeria, I feel that their tactics were out of date, although their strategy was desirable.

The replacement of "schemers" by "doers" signalised a new era in the story of Nigerian labour.

It enabled the workers to feel free to give vent not only to their emotions but also to their faculties.

It made the workers feel emancipated from the manacles of conventions and from the chains of capitalist ethics.

But it did not make them licentious necessarily; and they did not become licentious in their behaviour, although they did give vent to their pent up emotions just as workers in other parts of the world do, had done, and would do, in case they are faced with crises of such nature; under such situations.

The ringing out of the old trades union leaders and the ringing in of the new was desirable in Nigerian trade unionism.

It was an asset in the balance sheet of the strike, so far as the workers of Nigeria are concerned.

To be continued.

Sees Empire Colonial Labor Coming Of Age

Pittsburgh Courier
P2. 3-3-45

By GEORGE PADMORE Pgh., Penn.

LONDON (Censored)—For the first time in the history of international labor, Colonial workers, the most oppressed and exploited section of the working classes, have been represented at a world-wide conference in large numbers. Observers consider this one of the most encouraging signs, indicating the growth of political and trade union consciousness among the toiling masses of Africa, West Indies, British Guiana, India and China. 3-3-45

Unfortunately sharp cleavages broke out among some of the delegates at the opening session of the conference.

The only united colored delegations were the Chinese and Africans. The Chinese Association of Labor is represented by H. T. Liu, Chu Hsueh Fan and Pang Kam-Yau. The African delegation is comprised of representatives from four West African colonies who soon established a united front with the other Negro delegates from British Guiana and Jamaica.

The African delegation was headed by two veteran labour leaders, Wallace Johnson and Edward F. Small of Gambia. Mr. Johnson is the general secretary of the Sierra Leone section of the West Africa Youth League, editor of the African Standard and president of the Trade Union Congress which he represents at the conference. He was released from a five-year prison sentence a few weeks before reaching London.

Mr. Small is the president of the Gambia Trade Union Federation and a member of the Legislative Council. Both he and Mr. Mr. Johnson were delegates at the International Conference of Negro Workers held in Hamburg, Germany, in 1930 and visitors to Russia as guests of the Soviet Trade Union International in the same year. 3-3-45

Nigeria Trades Union Congress, which has a membership of 500,000 was represented by its president, T. A. Bankole and M. A. Tokumboh.

The Gold Coast Railway Civil Servants and Technical Workers' Union was represented by J. S. Annam.

The other colonial delegates were Hubert Crichlow, president of the British Guiana Trades Union Council with a membership of 10,000. Mr. Crichlow, like Mr. Small is a legislator in his country. He has attended several international working class conferences in London, Hamburg and Moscow.

The Jamaica Trades Union Congress is represented by Ken Hill, one of the most progressive of younger trade unionists in the West Indies. 3-3-45

WHITES REPRESENT COLOR BAR

The delegates from South Africa and Northern Rhodesia consist entirely of white men. In both countries the color bar policy operates and black workers are not allowed to join the official trade union movements, nor are African workers allowed the same facilities as European workers to form their own unions.

BRITISH REFUTE STATEMENT THAT PROMINENT AFRICAN LABOR LEADER ARRESTED, SAYS NAACP

Black Dispatch

Nnamdi Azikewe Leads Fight For Better Wages For Native Laborers

WHITE SENDS CABLEGRAM OF PROTEST

Oklahoma City, Okla.

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—In response to a cablegram of protest addressed to Oliver Stanley of the Colonial Office in London, the British Information Service in New York City on July 18 informed the NAACP that Nnamdi Azikiwe, prominent Nigerian editor, had not been arrested in connection with the strike of Nigerian workers seeking a wage of 60 cents a day.

Azikiwe, editor of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, who has become known as the chain newspaper lord of West Africa, was said to have been threatened by British authorities because he was suspected of advising the strikers and encouraging them in their activity. Azikiwe was educated in the United States, and is a graduate of Lincoln university, Pa. His newspapers, especially the Pilot, have been outspoken in their demands for better treatment for West Africans natives.

The message from the British Information Service to the NAACP was from Jack Bennett and said: "Mr. Azikiwe has not been arrested and has deportation is not contemplated." 7-28-45

Walter White, NAACP secretary, cabled Mr. Stanley of the Cononial Office and Governor Arthur Richards in Lagos, Nigeria, on June 16 protesting the reported action against Azikiwe, after the NAACP had received a cable from the Pan-African Federation in London asking cooperation of American organizations in behalf of the editor. To the Colonial Office in London White cabled:

"National Association for Advancement of Colored People informed Nnamdi Azikiwe, prominent Nigerian editor, arrested, life threatened, threatened with banishment from Nigeria and papers suppressed by order of Governor Richards for supporting strikers asking sixty cents daily wage. Such action, if information correct, will greatly discredit British and Allied claims war being fought for freedom of men everywhere. Immediate corrective action urged."

To Governor Richards the NAACP cabled:

"National Association for Advancement of Colored People informed Nnamdi Azikiwe threatened with banishment, life threatened and papers suppressed for supporting strikers asking sixty cents daily wage. Thoughtful Americans appalled. Immediate corrective action vigorously urged."

The British Information Service in New York told the NAACP that the present strike in Nigeria is not approved by the principal Nigerian trade unions, but information reaching the Association from other sources indicates that this is not so. The strike is approved by the Nigerian National Labor Congress, which includes all labor unions, as well as by the Nigerian National Council, composed of allsocial organizations in Nigeria and the Cameroons. The latter organization claims 7,000,000 members and Azikiwe is the national secretary. It is thought that because of the support his organizations have given the strike Azikiwe was threatened with deportation. 7-28-45

"When we stated that the NAACP was appalled at the idea of suppressing a strige demanding the pittance if 60 cents a day, we were understating the case so far as American opinion is concerned," declared Walter White. "We are not able to understand how the British government could afford to intimidate any leader asking for this bread-line wage for black workers in West Africa. The NAACP will keep in touch with the situation until it is settled to the satisfaction of the Nigerians."

Haile Selassie Regains Treasure Italians Took

Courier-Journal & Times Louisville, Ky.

Addis Ababa, July 31 (Delayed (AP)—More than 800 pounds of royal Ethiopian treasures stolen from the palace during the Italian occupation were presented formally to Emperor Haile Selassie today by J. K. Caldwell, U. S. minister to Ethiopia.

These treasures, consisting of 350 items, were retrieved by operatives of the U. S. Office of Strategic Services in northern Italy during a final roundup of leading Fascists and their loot. A special plane flew the cargo here from Cairo.

South Africa Faces Rosy Food Future As Europe Starves

Richmond Times Dispatch Va.

CAPE TOWN — (UP) — While Europe face its blackest Winter, South Africa is emerging from its cold season with a brighter outlook than a year ago.

A National Food Supply Council has been set up to advise the government on requirements, distribution and control, and Minister of Agriculture Jacobus G. N. Strauss has testified as to the following food facts:

After a difficult meat shortage, a reserve of 45,000 carcesses of beef has been laid up in cold storage. Fish supplies are better than last year and cheese, fresh milk, eggs and dried fruit are plentiful. Stocks of butter now exceed 5,000,000 pounds. Tea supplies, all imported, will continue to be restricted, but there is no shortage of coffee. 10-19-45

The potato outlook is better that a year ago, but Strauss reports that there will not be an abundance; 10,000 bags are expected later in the year from Kenya. The maize crop is short of requiments and the natives—whose staple food is maize—will receive preference.

Some wheat also will have to be imported—South Africa still has the wartime brown "standard" bread and about 1,000,000 bags are expected from Canada and Argentina this year, double that quantity next year. There is still no rice in many shops, although a greater quantity has been coming into the country.

On the export side, South Africa will send Britain as much as possible of its sugar crop, and between 200 and 300 million citrus fruits already have been shipped. Strauss said Britain has also been offered dried fruits, jam, crawfish, canned food, 1,000,000 pounds of cheese and 5,000 carcasses of beef.

In addition, a national appeal has been launched for a £200,000 "Thank You, Britain," fund for food shipments in appreciation of Britain's stand during the war and of the sacrifices of the British people.

4,000,000 in South Africa Face Starvation Due to Gov't Policy

New York N.Y. Daily Worker 11-27-45

The Council on African Affairs yesterday warned of the danger of starvation facing 4,000,000 Africans in the Ciskei, Transkei and Northern Transvaal sections of the Union of South Africa.

A spokesman of the Council citedine conditions, though there was this condition as another idict-full knowledge of what was iment of the South African govern-pending. No additional supply of ment's "white supremacy" policy. grain was imported for African con-

The principal food item of the sumption, nor was there any curb African is corn (called "mealies") placed upon the sale of mealies for because it is cheapest to buy. There feeding livestock and for making of has been a shortage of mealies crops beer by the municipal beer halls. for the last three years due in part to weather conditions, but more especially to the limitation of cultivatable land available to the African.

The government was charged with derelict ion of duty and culpable negligence" for not taking necessary steps to avoid the present famine.

Labour Party's Policy For Africans

Bantu World Johannesburg

The Labour Party has issued a brochure outlining a programme of its policy. Under the headline: "What is Labour's Native Policy?" The pamphlet states: It is necessary, at the outset, to understand what is termed the "Native problem" is one aspect of the general economic and social problem that faces all the nations of the world and us here in South Africa more specifically. 6-16-45

That general economic problem is one of poverty, inefficiency, illiteracy and instability caused by the failure, under our capitalist system, of using our human material resources to their full in order to provide sufficient of the essentials of life for all the people of this country.

This lack of activity and its resultant poverty is clearly illustrated by this comparative table of national income per head of population, expressed in International Units. In the U.S.A. the income per head is 1,381; in New Zealand 1,202; in Great Britain 1,069; while in South Africa, it is only 276. Even a poor country like Greece shows a figure of 297.

This burden of poverty—caused primarily by the economic backwardness of health, landlessness and lack of skill—weighs heavily on the European population as well as on the non-Europeans.

These conditions are being perpetuated by a policy aimed at maintaining the Native reserves as reservoirs of cheap labour. Large numbers of Africans in the reserves are landless: for the rest, not only is the land insufficient, but lack of agricultural training and knowledge means that even the available land is wastefully used. The consequence is that we have a Native population that is part-time peasant and part-time industrial, with no prospect of developing efficiency in either sphere. The present system of migratory labour must be halted and a permanent rural and a permanent urban African population must be developed.

Although the real solution to the so-called "Native problem" can only be brought about in a socialist society, there are a number of short-term objectives which are immediately attainable the implementation of which the Party seeks. These include Improved educational, occupational, health and housing facilities. 6-16-45

Increased land, higher wages, the right to Trade Union Organisation.

Only of these can a more efficient, stable and industrious non-European people be created, which will be able to play its full and effective role in agriculture and industry. The decisive and rapid carrying out of these measures is equally necessary to build a contented and ordered community, to combat juvenile delinquency and crime, and to rebuild both health and morale. 6-16-45

Production will be stimulated by increasing the market for the goods we produce in this country.

Repressive legislation which simply causes resentment and enmity, eg., Pass Laws and Master and Servants Act, must be eliminated and give way to general legislation which will bring the non-European within the frame work of the regular industrial and other legislation of this country. Instead of manufacturing criminals we could be creating useful citizens.

The Labour Party has always been opposed to the importation of Native Labour from outside our borders as it tends to depress the conditions of the Union Native and further complicates our employment problems.

AFRICAN DELEGATE

Philadelphia Tribune Phila., Pa.



3-10-45 NNP

Hon. Wallace-Johnson, of the Sierra Leone Trades Union congress, Sierra Leone, Africa, who was regarded as the outstanding African delegate to the World Trade Union congress held in London last month. Wallace Johnson's address won widespread attention in world labor circles. —(ANP).

British Exploit African Farmers

AFRO-American 1-6-45

LONDON— (ANP)—The exploitation of 500,000 African cocoa farm families by the British cocoa pool was revealed here recently when the government released figures on the African cocoa industry showing net profits of more than $15, 000,000 between 1939 and 1943. Baltimore, Md.

The method employed by the cocoa pool, composed of leading English chocolate manufacturers, to exploit the African cocoa farmers was to simply force them to sell their produce at the buyers' price. The manufacturers were the buyers.

Unlike the land policy in East and South Africa, West African cocoa is produced by the Africans themselves, but the marketing of the cocoa in England, America and other countries is entirely in the hands of British merchants. among themselves as the only buyers in the market, they force the Africans to accept the lowest price for their cocoa. The crop is then divided among themselves according to their needs and the rest is consigned for foreign markets.

Liberia's Few Mechanics Don't Want for a Job

Baltimore, Md. Afro-American

By VINCENT TUBBS
AFRO Representative on NNPA African Commission

KAKATA, LIBERIA—(Via Air Mail)—The only active vocational school in the 45,000 square miles of this country's length and breadth is located here and bears the name, Booker T. Washington Industrial and Agricultural Institute. In addition to teaching agriculture as a science, the school maintains a carpentry, blacksmith and brickmasonry shop which has recently added a motor maintenance section, and the small numbers of graduates are in great demand by all employers of skilled labor.



Mr. Tubbs

Firestone Plantations wait like a wolf at the door for each graduation date, the government requisitions graduates and the Liberian Frontier Force (army) clamor for the young men the school turns out prepared to work with their hands.

Established in 1929

The institute was established in 1929 by the Phelps-Stokes Fund. The Liberian Government granted the school 1000 acres of land for its physical plant, some 30 of which are now utilized as a campus for the seventeen brick buildings erected largely by student labor.

An additional sixty acres are used as farm, gardening and pasture land, upon which the students grow all the food consumed by them except rice—and even this latter crop has been seeded in nearby swamp areas so that the school may soon be producing all of its foodstuffs.

In the field of vocational education, it appears that Liberia, 1-13-45 which is entirely an agricultural country, can use many mechanics. Only one previous attempt at vocational education is recorded: this by the American Lutheran Mission, and now extinct.

Mechanics Scarce

Observers here today declare that there are not many artisans or mechanics in the whole country (except the few from Booker T.) who did not come from some adjoining British or French colony.

At the same time, contrary to some reports that the indigenous people do not take to vocational instruction, Booker T. recently reported 132 applications for entrance—some from boys 300 miles distant—only a small percentage of whom they were able to accept, because of the small physical plant.

Much to Be Done

The school has an annual budget of approximately $14,000, a faculty of fourteen instructors and administrators, and a student body of 120 youths.

The United States Government has, this year, granted the school $15,000 to supplement a building program, but there is much more that will be done in the way of vocational education in order that Liberia can create a substantial middle class.

These facts hold true, however:

1. Vocational education is one of the country's greatest needs.
2. Booker T. Washington Institute is doing a small but effective job of proving the value of vocational education.
3. Liberian youths feel that education of the hands should go along with education of the head and some have walked over 300 miles year after year, seeking entrance at Booker T., only to be turned away because of the small plant.

SOUTH AFRICANS STRIKE AGAINST TROLLEY LINES

Chicago Defender 1-13-45 Ill. Chicago Ill.

Protest Native's Death In Johannesburg Race Riots

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON.—Ten thousand African natives of Johannesburg, angered by the killing of an African by a European trolley pilot, are staging a sit down strike against the municipal transport lines which threatens to disrupt the war effort of the Union of South Africa.

European owners of war industries have appealed to the government to reduce bus fares and to settle the natives' grievances so that war production may be resumed. 1-13-45

When the natives began their boycott of the city's bus and trolley lines on New Year's Day, 17 native lorry owners organized an emergency transport service enabling the Africans to travel to work daily. The gasoline rations of the lorry owners were then discontinued and the natives were forced to use a fleet of horsedrawn vehicles catering exclusively to Africans.

Jan Hofmeyer, General Jan Smuts' deputy, who met with complaining employers, declared: "The government will not be cajoled by the illegal actions of the natives." However he promised to investigate the natives' grievances.

The killing of the native was one in a series of incidents climaxed by race riots in Johannesburg during which the Bantu World newspaper was burned.

Hairdress Tells Marital Status Of Tribe Women

Richmond Times-Va. 4-22-45

Associated Press Newsfeatures

SALT LAKE CITY—Women of the Bantu tribes, in Africa, denote their marital status by varied hairdresses, Richard Folland, former president of the South African mission of the Latter-day Saints (Mormon) Church, says.

Exhibiting a plastercast head with the hair smoothed down, he says: 4-22-45

"You'll notice that the hair is coated with something that resembles black clay. That clay and the mode of hairdress are symbols of the virgin women. When she marries, she looks like this."

He displayed a model with a round brick-colored headpiece atop the head, also clay-molded.

FUTURE OF PAPUA AUSTRALIA'S PROBLEM

New York Times

Special Correspondence THE NEW YORK TIMES.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—American dollars, flowing easily in Papua (British New Guinea) have been building post-war problems among the natives of the territory, Australian observers think.

In two years of labor for the Allied army, the native has amassed far more money than he ever dreamed of owning. When war ends he is expected to have no thought beyond buying himself a wife and striving to live indolently in his native village. 5-7-45

But association with large numbers of white men for the first time in history has undoubtedly made a dent on the character of the natives and no one knows just how things are going to work out. Naturally intelligent and inquiring, the Papuans have acquired some new values. N.Y.

Fundamentally, Papuan society is still primitive. Observers doubt if one Papuan could aspire to greater responsibility than rests upon the member of a village council. The island lacks large tribes governed by powerful chiefs, and no Papuan can claim a large domain. The communistic native society divides the land among the members of the tribe and the influence of a village chief is the summit of local power. 5-7-45

Thus administration officials are arguing the abolition of the prewar system of indentured labor will not be possible immediately after the war because the natives will not be ready for such a move. Planters and officials assert that cutting loose the natives this way would not be appreciated and that any plan to free them completely must be linked to wider education and spread over a generation.

Development of Papua depends on Australian policy. If the Australian Government carries out its present plans to better the natives' lot it must spend money aiding settlement, building roads, establishing transportation services and widening social and welfare undertakings.

Ethiopia Seen as Food Source

N.Y.Times

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

The food situation in Europe, about which former Governor Lehman and others are voicing justifiable concern, opens some exceedingly unpleasant vistas. So far as our own relationships to it are concerned the American people can scarcely regard it with complacence. On the one hand, we are being warned that unless we share in even greater measure than heretofore political upheavals dangerous to world tranquillity will almost certainly follow in the wake of Europe's hunger. Yet our ability to feed ourselves adequately is now being brought into question by our new Secretary of Agriculture.

Meanwhile a source of supply that could be used to alleviate Europe's food problems is being ignored. We are told that the vast grazing ranges in Ethiopia possess some two million head of cattle, with an approximate yield of 250 pounds of dressed meat each—an abundance far in excess of that country's modest needs. In fact, lack of adequate markets for this meat is reported to be the reason why cattle are being slaughtered there solely for what the hides will bring. 7-17-45

Other considerations aside, the relatively shorter shipping distances via the Mediterranean to Italy and other parts of Southern Europe suggest the wisdom of tapping this rich source of urgently needed foodstuffs.

THOMAS G. MORGANSEN.
Jackson Heights, N. Y., July 14, 1945

Poôr land, wonderful air, stock-raising and diamonds help make up South Africa

Courier Journal

PYTHONS that swallow buck antelopes and slither through bush grass with the antlers puncturing their skin, a scarcity of irrigation and a plethora of diamonds are characteristic of South Africa, as described by Mrs. Morton V. Joyes, Jr., 2341 Glenmary, who was born on the Island of Madeira, was educated in England and lived for eight years near the town of Pietersburg in the Northern Transvaal, about 300 miles north of Johannesburg.

Most attractive to tourists is South Africa's unrivaled air. From Capetown, on the coast, inland to Johannesburg, at 6,000 feet, the traveler is struck by a constantly clear, crisp climate. 5-20-45

"A peddler once told me that he could hardly wait to reach the peak of a mountain in the Transvaal in order to admire the expected view. But when he arrived at the other side, he was sorely disappointed—he merely had ascended to another, loftier plateau," Mrs. Joyes said. "Rather than rising flush from the ground, the mountains form gradual terraces upward." Louisville, Ky

South Africa's poor soil and stunted trees make it best suited for stock-raising. Its winter, the reverse of ours, begins about April, and is typically nipping and dry. "But it is universally pleasant, which perhaps accounts for the fact that the Union produces such remarkable sportsmen—the weather permits outdoor activities throughout the year."

Mining is South Africa's top industry; it has the world's greatest stores of gold and precious stones, as well as rich veins of magnesium, carborundum, copper and mica. The tremendous Premier Diamond Mine lies in a manmade chasm a mile wide and a mile deep, and spectators congregate to watch the midnight blastings. Illicit diamond-buying is South Africa's most prevalent criminal practice. 5-20-45

Its Government-supported schools are bilingual; practically any applicant for a job must have a fluent command of both Dutch and English. Permanent residents usually pick up several of the 49 native Basuto tongues to boot. 5-20-45

Tension between the British and Dutch colonials, climaxed in the Boer War, has not been entirely eliminated, Mrs. Joyes believes. But aging Field Marshal Jan Christiaan Smuts, a liberal statesman as well as soldier, has been successful in promoting harmony in this sprawling territory, origin of much of the wealth of the British Empire.



HIGH FASHION among Zulu belles of South Africa is this flowerpot coiffure. Most of the Union's workers must speak two languages.

South Africans Win Two-Month Transit Strike

Chicago Defender
2-3-45 Ill.
Chicago Ill

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON — Ten thousand Johannesburg natives won a two-months transit strike when the Smuts government agreed this week to meet their demands for reduced fares. 2-3-45

It was a single-handed victory, for the white workers allied themselves with the employers against the South African strikers.

To accommodate African passengers to and from native districts, the government will consider the possibility of constructing a railway where the fare will be six cents instead of the 12 cents charged by the bus companies.

Commenting on the Africans' victory, the Johannesburg Daily Mail published an editorial entitled "Common Sense Wins." The editorial said, "The agreement does not finally solve the problem, but there will be time now for discussion of further projects in a peaceful atmosphere." 2-3-45

On the same day the transit strike settlement was announced, news of a labor strike in Uganda Protectorate reached the London Colonial Office. Eight Americans and one Indian were killed and 11 Africans and several police were injured. British authorities are awaiting more detailed report from the governor. 2-3-45

Until now, Uganda was considered the most peaceful and prosperous East African colony, governed by a native king named Kabaka. The English governor, however, has overriding powers and Kabaka must do what the governor says.

THE HOME CORNER

HOME INDUSTRIES IN KENYA DISTRICT

Natives of the Embu district of Kenya are sometimes seen going to work in neat cablestitch sweaters these days, knitted by their sisters, wives and daughters from wool spun on their own spindles or wheels. On their beds are gay coloured blankets woven on hand looms in Embu village which forms the headquarters of the district. Some of them wear jerkins made from the locally tanned skins of their own sheep or goats. Many drink their tea and eat their food from cups, bowls and basins made from the Embu clay, modelled and baked by the Native potters of Embu.

This district stretches from the forest below the peak of Mount Kenya and through the foothills to the Tana Valley. In the centre is the village of Embu where two low thatched buildings by the roadside house the beginnings of three home industries, spinning and weaving, pottery, and tanning, bringing a new interest and a potential source of revenue to the Africans of this tribe.

As often happens in Kenya, it was the District Commissioner and his wife who got these embryo factories going, firing the local inhabitants with some of their own energy and initiative.

Spinning and weaving was the first craft to be introduced. Stimulating interest was hard work at the start, but now more than a hundred Embu Natives have wheels of their own, and in one of the thatched buildings is a school for spinners and weavers with a number of men and boys busy at the spindles and wheels, or working the hand looms. In the centre of the room is a table piled high with the finished product—sweaters knitted from the home-spun wool, blankets straight off the loom, white or in bright colours made from local dyes.

In the second building is a small demonstration tannery, where Natives bring their sheep and goat skins to be treated for two shillings a time. They are cleaned, soaked in lime and a solution made from local wattle bark; dried, cleaned again. A final rubbing with locally made castor oil makes them soft and pliable—the whole a nine-day process and a good two shillings worth. Local Native cobblers use the skins for shoe "uppers" and others are bought by the tannery and made into satchels and jerkins, the odd bits into bootlaces. The tannery is also run as a school and no fees are charged for learning the job. Already one pair of tanners have set up in the district some twenty miles from the village of Embu.

The potters work at one end of the tanning shed. Local clay is ground to the right consistency and the native potters, one working a wooden and one a cement wheel, turn it into quite presentable cups, saucers and bowls. These, like the blankets, wool, satchels and jerkins are sold on market days, when scores of people come to the village of Embu, stop at the thatched buildings and gaze with interest at the scene of industry.

The money-making side of the Centre however, is purely secondary. Its fundamental function is that of a demonstration centre, a means of showing the African how these articles of everyday life can come within his financial reach on the "make it here" principle. Pupils, whether in pottery, tanning or spinning and weaving, pay no fees and are not compelled to attend set classes. They come and go as they please, fitting the instruction into the routine of their daily life.

Opportunities In African Business (3)

ONE neglected field in the realm of African business is carpentry and cabinet-making. The reason is not far to seek: there are many improperly trained carpenters and cabinet makers. The result is that there is a glut on the market, and incompetent ones are able to thrive successfully.

When one takes into consideration the fact that most employees who live in this country must reside in unfurnished homes, and that Nigeria still awaits the enterprising fellow who would manufacture house furniture on a large scale and sell or rent them cheaply, then the possibilities in carpentry can be realised.

Take Lagos alone. There must be about 30,000 houses wherein live more than 210,000 people. Any person with business foresight, who is prepared to manufacture a set of furniture (say one bed, one dining table, one writing table, four chairs, one wash bowl) in latest designs, and economical to produce, should be able to hire them out for 10/- a month. To distribute 100 sets in 100 houses should guarantee a gross income of £50 a month. All things being equal, the investor in this kind of business should be able to net a yearly income of £300, which is what a Chief Clerk gets after umpty years of service in which his language is saturated with "yes sir."

There are other avenues for money-making and earning an honest livelihood in the practice of carpentry and cabinet making, such as purchasing timber and making windows and doors of standard sizes in large quantities, for wholesale or retail to contractors and builders, etc. These clearly show that where a person has the enterprising ability, he or she can create opportunities and use them to their wholesome advantage and to the community.

Opportunities In African Business (1)

WE must not wait until the war is ended and emergency controls are rescinded before we decide to take a leap in grasping the opportunities which are open to the African in different branches of business. To do so would be disastrous because it demonstrates our lacking in economic foresight.

Take the field of printing, for example. There are unlimited possibilities not only for development but also for making safe investments with reasonable turn-over. In this field, there are three channels for investment which can be profitable: (a) printing newspapers, magazines, literature etc. (b) supplying printing materials to printers and proprietors of newspapers and periodicals (c) photo engraving and photo-lithography.

Under category (a) a well-financed company can import a rotary machine which prints from 5,000 to 25,000 copies of sixteen-paged newspapers per hour, and can print on contract for any newspaper organisation so that morning newspapers can be well-printed and distributed before 5 a.m. daily or according to order. Under category (b) printing materials (including type, ink, composition matter, stones, cutting machines, wharfedale, croppers, etc.) can be imported on a wholesale basis and retailed to printers and proprietors of newspapers locally. Under category (c) photographic blocks can be manufactured locally and distributed over a wide field in west and central Africa. The same is applicable to colour printing.

Now, how many investors are prepared to risk their capital in any or all of the above categories without being suspicious whether the risk is worth it? How many Africans had failed to run their printing or newspaper business organisations successfully because their shareholders were afraid to invest their capital, thinking that it would not pay, and yet some of them would not scruple to denounce any courageous and enterprising investor? Printing as a business can be converted into a gold mine, but chicken-hearted shareholders are not wanted because they will surely fail.

US Govt. Decries British Paper On Cocoa As Freezing Out America From Africa

West African Pilot

Lags Behind Scenes Rumpus Is Epitomised

By GEORGE PADMORE,

2-17-45

LONDON.—"Providence seems to have created the black continent to give white statesmen perpetual headaches," is how a well-known colonial expert in London epitomised the conflict now going on behind the scene between the British and American governments over the future control of world's supply of cocoa produced largely by West African farmers in Nigeria and Gold Coast.

No sooner had the British government's White Paper issued in London a few months ago by Colonel Oliver Stanley, Secretary of State for Colonies, come to the attention of the American government, officials in Washington denounced the White Paper as a "plan to control African cocoa by the British Government and thereby keep American dealers out of Africa."

In previous dispatches I have analysed the contents of the White Paper, showing how before the war the bulk of African cocoa produced by over 300,000 small farmers used to be purchased by British chocolate manufacturers and big combines at prices fixed by the buyers

But when the war started the Colonial Office together with the British Ministry of Supplies set up a Cocoa Marketing Board on which many of the representatives of the big combines, known as "the Cocoa Pool" are represented. 2-17-45

The Chairman of the Government Marketing Board in England is none other than John Cadbury, Managing Director of Cadbury Brothers, the largest chocolate manufacturers in this country.

The board acting as government agents now buy up the annual output of cocoa at prices fixed by the government.

The profits derived therefrom are not distributed among the West African producers but set aside by the Colonial Office to finance future buying and research.

According to the official figures released in the White Paper the British made £3,676,253 out of the transaction between 1939 and 1943.

So much for the back ground of the trouble between the Anglo-American governments, which, I understand is being discussed in official circles following the recent visit of Colonel Stanley to Washington.

The issue between the two governments resolves itself as a dog fight between the two schools of economic outlook: "Free enterprise versus government control."

The Americans claim that since they are the greatest consumers of cocoa, they should have the right to enter Africa and buy whatever they need directly from the African producers.

They further assert that should they be allowed to do so they will pay much higher prices to the Africans than they now receive, since under the present arrangement the Africans are compelled to sell to the British Marketing Board, which in turn sells to the American manufacturers.

On the other hand, the British assert that since the African producers have no means of marketing their cocoa themselves either in England or in America, added to the difficulties of war-time shipping, their scheme affords the best guarantee to the Africans of getting their crops sold. 2-17-45

Then there is the third point of view expressed to me in London by African representatives of the Gold Coast Farmers' Association.

They say that it is not true that the Africans are incapable of looking after their own marketing.

And quote as an example the formation of the Farmers' Association which established a marketing agency in London in 1939 for the purpose of dealing directly with British and American importers.

But that the activities of the African agency have been hampered by the intervention of the British government which makes it compulsory for the producers to dispose of their crops in West Africa through the government controlled marketing board.

To check-up on this, I recently paid a visit to the headquarters of the Gold Coast Farmers' Association which is located at Effingham House, Arundell Street, Strand, London, and is under the management of a Russian, Mr Brendhandler, who confirmed the criticisms of African cocoa dealers in this country.

Since my interview with Mr Brendhandler, the situation has become even more complicated. 2-17-45

British "Big Business" have announced that they too are opposed to government control.

Here is what the Cocoa Association of London says:

In a memorandum issued here this week criticising the Colonial Office, the document says that "the scheme is unworkable, on balance detrimental to every section of the cocoa industry, including the producer, and adverse to the public and national interest."

It goes on to analyse the White Paper and concludes:

"Protection of the producer against unremunerative market prices during periods of depression, it is asserted by the association, can be reached by the institution of a minimum price, and the government is urged to invite experienced and expert advice from all qualified quarters before embarking on a policy which is fraught with the gravest perils to this country's commercial prestige and is liable to undermine the prosperity of the West African colonies it seeks to promote." 2-17-45

The London business men then proceed to make three recommendations:

(1) That war-time control be continued only for the period of the war;

(2) That no fresh commitments be entered into without consultation with the Cocoa Association of London and

(3) That the government Cocoa Marketing Board hand back as quickly as possible — "the function of marketing West African cocoa to a responsible body for carrying out the distribution of the product on lines acceptable to the producer and in the interest of the West African colonies and the ultimate consumer, adapting its elastic machinery to the change of circumstance that might arise."

The London business men who have no real interest in the welfare of the Africans are merely exploiting the grievances of the African producers to score off against the Colonial Office.

What they want is to be given the opportunity of carrying on their own racket after the war as they did before the government assumed the marketing of cocoa. 2-17-45

The real solution of the present conflict is to allow the Africans to set up their own marketing agency on a co-operative basis, employing if need be experts to advise them in the intricacies of the business.

Fabian Colonial Bureau Criticises The Africans For Rejecting Cocoa Scheme

West African Pilot

2-16-45

Regards Their Suspicions As Rubbish

By GEORGE PADMORE,

2-16-45

LONDON:—Criticising the distrustfulness of those Africans who are sceptical about the British government's White Paper on cocoa as a plan conceived primarily in the interests of local producers, the Fabian Colonial Bureau has issued a statement in the current issue of its journal, Empire, taking certain West African journals to task.

WEST AFRICAN PRESS

"It is disappointing to find some of the West African papers reacting in an unreasonable manner to the plans for the post-war control of cocoa," declares the Fabians.

The statement goes on to say:

"We discussed this plan in our November issue and it seems to us to contain the elements of a sound and constructive solution to the very difficult problems of marketing and price control for primary commodities.

"There is little attempt in these West African papers to understand what the plan really is and to analyse it critically.

"They indulge instead in generalisations about 'the economic dictation of European firms,' 'vitiating the ideal for which Britain is at war,' 'putting producers at the mercy of vested interests' and so on."

2-16-45

DESCRIBED AS 'RUBBISH'

Contemptuously brushing aside the instinctive suspicions of a subject people who have been always at the mercy of predatory forces, the Fabians proceed to assert:

"No one pretends the plan is perfect, but these charges are just rubbish, as a minute's detailed study will show.

"The fairest comment we have seen comes from the Gold Coast Independent which, though cautious, recognises the need for a central marketing organisation to handle the country's cocoa, and realises that that is the best way to eliminate the pools and buying agreements among the firms which have been the curse of West Africa in the past. 2-16-45

"It appreciates that the return of the millions of pounds profit which has been built up during the war to finance such an organisation, will at last make central marketing a possibility.

"It also recognises the great importance of the allocation of nearly a million pounds for cocoa research."

VIEWED WITH SUSPICION

Turning from the economic to the psychological aspect of the question, the statement observes that "One does indeed understand how it comes about that everything done by the British government is viewed with suspicion in our colonies."

While knocking the Africans for not swallowing the plan as readily as they seem to have done, the Fabian statement proceeds to claim that" we ourselves have been fighting for years now, in Parliament and elsewhere, for a proper handling of the cocoa trade, and we have fulminated as loudly as any against the low prices and the monopoly of trading firms.

"It seems to us, however, that this new plan was an honest attempt to meet the very criticisms we had been making."

A PARTING SHOT

And as a parting shot to those Africans who have dared to express scepticism at the goodheartedness of a Tory Colonial Secretary, for protecting them against big business, expressed the hope that "perhaps on a more careful reading of the White-Paper, West Africans may have more helpful criticism, or some alternative plan, to offer."

West African students in London with whom your correspondent has discussed this question feel very strongly against the composition of the marketing board and have suggested an alternative plan, namely, that Africans should be encouraged to form co-operative marketing agencies and affiliate with the British co-operative movement from whom they could get expert advice for less than it cost the Colonial Office to maintain the new exclusively European controlled marketing set-up.

West African Students Union Criticises Cocoa Control Of The Colonial Office

Demands Co-Operative For Farmers

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.—West African intellectuals whose economic well-being is largely dependent upon the farming communities of Nigeria, the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, are vitally concerned about the future of the cocoa industry of these British territories.

This interest was reflected by the concerted action taken here by the members of the West African Students' Union (most of whom are related to West African farmers) to the British government's White Paper on the future of the cocoa industry.

60% OF WORLD OUTPUT

After discussing the Colonial Office plan to place the marketing of West African cocoa, produced by labour of thousands of African farmers, under government control, the students issued a memorandum, copies of which have been dispatched to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Members of Parliament.

"The importance of cocoa in the economic life of the people of West Africa today, cannot be overlooked," declares the report.

"Nigeria and the Gold Coast together supply over 60 per cent of the total world output of cocoa, the Gold Coast leading all the other cocoa producing countries, and Nigeria, next to Brazil, coming third.

VERY SERIOUS DEFECTS

"It is obvious that some plan of centralised marketing would be advantageous to African producers, particularly as their position has been such that they have usually been obliged to sell their products at the prices dictated by the buyers; but the proposals in the White Paper contain some very serious defects, as far as the interests of the people of West Africa are concerned."

Commenting on these defects, the memorandum states:

"The White Paper while giving much prominence to the government controlled co-operative societies, which after all, represent only a very small percentage of West African producers, has failed to give due consideration to the overwhelming majority of producers (97 per cent in the Gold Coast and slightly less in Nigeria) who, though outside those controlled co operative societies, have large and strong organisations of their own.

"OTHER INTERESTS"

"An outstanding example of the latter is the Gold Coast and Nigeria Farmers' Association."

Condemning paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Colonial Office plan, the memorandum asserts:

"It is significant that while paragraph 36 provides for the ultimate majority of representatives of the co-operative societies in the case of the Gold Coast, it gives no such promise at all in the case of Nigeria, where co-operative societies are more numerous.

"Further, it is necessary to make clear what the 'other interests' mentioned in these paragraphs really are."

Analysing the composition of membership on the government marketing board, the document comes to the conclusion that "the question as to who will do the actual purchasing is important, particularly as the policy of 'previous performance' has been receiving support.

RIGHT OF SAY

"It is to be noted, that although the co-operators may buy produce and store them, they cannot by themselves ship them abroad, European firms like the United Africa Company having to do this."

Dealing with the tremendous profits of over three million pounds sterling declared by the Colonial Office from cocoa during the years 1939 — 43, the West African Students' Union memorandum declares that "the proposed disposal of profits calls for criticism.

"While appreciating the difficulties that may be in the way of sharing profits among individual producers, we are of the opinion that the imperial government should recognise the fact that the profits rightly belong to the producers and that they are entitled to have a full say as to how it should be spent.

LOCAL PROCESSING

"It is significant," observes the memorandum "that no definite provision is made to encourage local processing of cocoa and any scheme of local industrialization that the producers may desire to carry out, since the White Paper aims at controlling the total output of West African cocoa.

Concluding their analytical criticism of the Colonial Office cocoa control scheme, the students voicing the sentiments of the farmers for whom they speak, set forth the following concrete programme:

(1) That all plans for marketing should be made by a board which should consist of a majority of representatives of the producers' own organisation, together with local merchants, with government officials as advisers.

EQUAL STATUS

(2) That the producers' own organisation, for example, the West African Farmers' Committee, of whose existence the government is well aware, should be given official recognition, and that their members be included on the control board on equal footing with the representatives of the Government controlled co-operative societies.

(3) That the farmers' organisations and the board should work in conjunction with the International Cocoa Council to be specially set up.

(4) That the present policy of 'previous performance' be revised, as, being based on the 1939 shipment list, most African middlemen's organisations are squeezed out and European firms hold a monopoly.

DEFINITE GUARANTEE

(5) That the producers are entitled to determine how the profits realised from sale of their products be used.

(6) That a substantial portion of the profits to be determined by the producers, be put into a reserve fund, and a portion used to subsidise the farmers' organisations.

(7) That provision be made in co-operation with the producers, to make future destruction of cocoa unnecessary, and that schemes for the local processing of cocoa be encouraged.

(8) That as the White Paper is curiously silent about the European firms there be a definite guarantee that the government does not intend to continue to employ them as commission agents (e.g. the Association of West African Merchants) to whom the sum of £2. 1. 2 out of the cocoa revenue, in addition to a commission of 10 shillings and 6 pence per ton of cocoa purchased, tax free, has been regularly given.

REASONABLE PRICES

(9) That a minimum price which should cover the cost of production and allow a reasonable profit, should be guaranteed.

(10) That provision be made for adequate representation of the producers themselves on any council or committee arranging a scheme of research.

(11) That the co-operative societies be made more democratic and free from government control.

(12) That the anomalies in paragraphs 36 and 37 (in the

White Paper) be rectified, and that a farmers' majority be guaranteed in the case of both Nigeria and the Gold Coast; further, that the time that such majority will begin to function precisely stated, or in any case, that it should be guaranteed that there will be no undue delay.

FULL CONSULTATION

(13) That the scheme set out in the White Paper be not used as a means of preventing local processing of cocoa or schemes of local industrialization that the West African producers and people desire to carry out.

The scheme must therefore guarantee the right of the producers to reserve for these purposes, adequate quantities of their own products, as they may desire.

(14) That future plans of this nature be made in full consultation with accredited representatives of the pro-

American Protest May Cause British Govt. To Abolish The Cocoa Monopoly

WEST AFRICAN PILOT - Lagos

Black Farmers Oppose Marketing Plan

4-27-45

By GEORGE PADMORE Our London Correspondent

LONDON.—Ever since the publication of the British government's White Paper on West African cocoa control, in which it was revealed that over three and a half millions sterling profits had been made within three years, high ranking officials at the Colonial Office have been suffering from acute headaches.

Faced with criticism from the London Chamber of Commerce and other "Big Business" pressure groups in this country and America, on the one hand, and equally violent opposition from the Gold Coast and Nigerian farmers, on the other, Colonel Oliver Stanley, has announced the "postponement" of the scheme after the 1945 - 6 crop has been marketed.

Commenting upon the Colonial Office retreat, the London "Recorder" says that "the West African Produce Control Board will remain in being to handle at least one more season's crop, not only from the two British areas (Gold Coast and Nigeria) but also from the French Cameroons.

"How far this will meet with the approval of the African producers remains to be seen.

"For five years these producers have claimed that they have been receiving much less than world price for cocoa; the fact that Colonel Stanley proposes returning the Control Board's profits to establish research schemes may or may not be immune from 'native' criticism." 4-7-45

Shortly after the scheme was announced under which the Colonial Office proposed to set up a government monopoly over West African cocoa, without first securing the support of the African producers' cooperatives and farmers' marketing association in London, the American government, acting on behalf of New York cocoa brokers, the largest buyers of West African cocoa, protested to the British government.

The Americans claim that the Colonial Office scheme was an attempt to keep New York dealers out of the African market and use members of the "Cocoa Pool" to buy on its behalf and then re-sell to America at inflated prices under reverse lend-lease. 4-7-45

The African producers on the other hand, while opposed to the monopolistic stranglehold over the industry by British firms, demand the right to market their cocoa directly under their auspices.

They resent the British Colonial Office using the profits derived from cocoa to spend as the Secretary of State sees fit without consulting the wishes of the farmers or their accredited representatives.

Had the Colonial Office consulted the Africans before instituting the present Cocoa Marketing Board, agreement might have been reached and all would have been well.

But the present official policy at Whitehall is not to take the colonial peoples into their confidence in applying projects under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme, consequently the relationship between colonial authorities and the peoples is not what it should be.

While claiming to represent the viewpoint of the West Africans, the Fabian Colonial Bureau, headed by Mr Creech Jones, Labourite M. P. and his secretary, Miss Rita Hinden, the South African colonial expert, advised Colonel Stanley to disregard criticism against the cocoa scheme and to carry it through as outlined in the White Paper.

The text of the Fabians' letter to the Colonial Secretary reads as follows:

"My committee has asked me to express to you its general support of the White Paper proposals for the marketing of West African cocoa and they trust that it will not be long before the first steps can be taken towards its implementation.

"The problem of marketing colonial primary products has, as you know, been considered as one of the utmost urgency in securing a reasonable standard of living for the colonial peoples, and a scheme such as now outlined by H. M. Government would appear to us to combine both the benefits of a stable price with the effective representation of the small producers on the marketing organisations, and their encouragement to band themselves co-operatively, which—in itself—is an education in citizenship.

"We regret, therefore, that there should be opposition to this scheme on the part of interests who have in the past operated the cocoa trade to the disadvantage of the colonial producer—as was clearly pointed out in the report on the Marketing of West African Cocoa of 1938.

"We hope that there will be no concession to these interests which might imperil the main proposals of the scheme or lead to any substantial modifications." 4-7-45

The statement concludes by assuring the Secretary of State for the Colonies "of our own appreciation and sympathetic support for the present scheme."

Unfortunately for the Fabians, shortly after they addressed their letter to Colonel Stanley, the Colonial Office under attacks, from British and American "Big Business," announced that the cocoa marketing scheme will be "suspended" after the coming crop has been gathered and sold by the Government agents.

No action has been announced as yet concerning the concrete proposals put forward by the Gold Coast and Nigerian Farmers Association and the West African Students' Union memoranda.

Britain Is Alleged To Have Raked Off £300,000 Profit On W. African Cocoa

1-17-45 WEST AFRICAN PILOT Lagos

NEW YORK. — According to a staff correspondence from London in the PM newspaper, a government White Paper, released by the British Colonial Office recently, revealed the fabulous war-time profits derived from exploiting cocoa producers in West Africa and the hard-bitten interests which must be dealt with in any international post-war planning. 1-17-45

The report—which should be of acute concern to Americans, the world's largest consumers of cocoa—showed that from 1939 to 1943 the British government had made a net profit of more than £300,000 from the produce of some 800,000 family farms.

This vast net profit came from the Gold Coast and Nigeria, which together produced the world's great est output of cocoa.

British manufacturers got the lion's share, though the USA is the largest consumer, according to the report. 1-17-45

Cocoa is produced on small cocoa farms, worked by African households.

The marketing is done by British merchants.

These merchants operate through a "cocoa pool," which is a combine of the chocolate manufacturers, including big monopolies like Unilevers.

By eliminating competition, they have forced the African to accept the fixed prices. 1-17-45

Each year's crop is divided among the members of the pool.

What is left is sold to American chocolate manufacturers and other foreign buyers. 1-17-45

This squeeze play caused a revolt of the Africans in 1937.

The farmers refused to sell their crops; some even burned them.

They also declared a boycott of British manufactured goods, principally Lancashire cottons.

The British government countered by sending a commission which recommended the right of the African farmers to form a producers' cooperative bodies, which would market the cocoa without interference from the pool. 1-17-45

This recommendation was shelved when Britain entered the war.

Instead, a Cocoa Marketing Board was set up as part of the British Food Ministry.

It was given the authority to buy and sell the African crops at fixed prices.

John Cadbury, head of one of the biggest chocolate manufacturing companies, was appointed chairman.

Representatives from each member of the pool were installed to man the newly created board.

They immediately established prices which were even lower than the Africans had received in the past.

Needless to say, their companies were given priority.

This pattern is to remain following the war. 1-17-45

The British government is most firm that war-time "controls" continue after the war.

Moreover, Colonel Oliver Stanley, British Minister of Colonies, explains that since these tremendous profits recently revealed, cannot possibly be distributed among the farmers, the Colonial Office intends to recognise the present Cocoa Marketing Board and use the accumulated profits to finance a new scheme.

This scheme will involve the use of research experts and high-salaried government employees to administer the Cocoa Board in connection with plans for expanding the industry.

1a-1945

Unanimous Report On Cocoa Control Signed

THE sub-Committee appointed last December by the Standing Committee of the Joint Provincial Council to study and examine the White Paper Scheme for a Cocoa Control Board and to make recommendations completed their work on Tuesday April 24, 1945 when a unanimous Report was signed at Adabraka.

The sub-Committee which was composed of chiefs as well as representatives of producers included the following: Nene Azzu Mate Kole, Konor of Manya Krobo (Chairman) Nana Prempon Manco II, Omanhene of Akim Kotoku; W. S. Otung, K. B. Asiedu and S. E. Boison appointed by the Joint Council; O. Ashie Nikoi, D. A. Newton (represented by A. K. Heizl) Berime Kwame Tufuor, and W. F. K. Djagbe, appointed by the Farmers Committee, Suhum and J. B. Danquah (Secretary) and E. K. Hevia appointed by the West African Producers Agency, Nsawam. The recommendations of the Sub Committee will be made available for the public when accepted by the Standing Committee.

Desert Conditions Threaten South African Soil

The report of Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, American soil conservation expert who recently made a 10,000 mile tour of the Union, has been published this week.

Dr. Bennett gives a grim warning that, unless soil erosion is halted now, within the next few decades some fifty per cent of the remaining fertility of the soil will have been lost. Giving an example of present denudation, Dr. Bennett says: "In the Northern Transvaal, between Pietersburg and the Drakensburg Mountains, we estimated that more than a hundred thousand acres of formerly productive land, more or less in a solid block, have practically lost all of the original top soil, down to subsoil that assumes the hardness of the rock during the dry season. Much of this land continues to be cultivated, although production has dropped down from around five bags of maize per acre to yields ranging form nothing to about one bag. This means, of course, hungry people, lean cattle and steadily accumulating difficulties—all of which must be overcome, as well as they may, if the Nation is to remain a vigorous Nation.

The people — Natives and Europeans—who are permitting this wide-spread damage to the land, much of which is irremediable, cannot be held wholly responsible for what they do, for much of the damage comes about through ignorance, custom and a general absence of any particular regard for the priceless value of productive soil.

And so they continue to burn the veld indiscriminately, even when the Research Stations of the Division of Soil and Veld Conservaion have clearly shown that it is better to mow the dry grass and make compost of it than to burn it, and that in some extensive areas, grass following mowing gives earlier grazing and better grazing value.

Dr Bennett points cut that after the war there will be a call for more and better food but that countries will not be so ready as in the past to export their food products. Each country will, therefore, have to look after its land better than in the past and the State will have to help the farmers by supplying the necessary technical knowdedge. He estimates that the Department of Agriculture needs 1,000 men in conservation work. 'Conseva-tion work is way out behind in South Africa' he says and it needs to be caught up with and the start should be now with an adequate force.'

Among methods that farmers can adopt themselves after they have been shown the correct method, Dr Bennett mentions ploughing on the countour, strip cropping which means planting across slopes strips of thick crops such as grass or lucerne, between parallel strips of cultivated crops. These 'strips' help to reduce erosion by wind and rain. Crop rotation, the use of wind-breaks, the addition of humus and mountain management are other recommended measures.

On this question of mountain management, Dr. Bennett says: 'South Africa is drying up on a large scale. Thousands of acres were once watered by now dried-up and drying-up springs and headwater streams. These add up to a large total area. Most of this has resulted from long-continued reckless burning-off of mountains and hills that formerly nurtured indigenous water-holding growths. Overgrazing and cutting of fire-wood have also contributed to the increasing drying-up of the land.'

Dr. Bennett suggests that apart from education for adults, provision should also be made for simple conservation projects for boys and girls to work on. Such schemes would include camping places with available housing facilities, tools and land. Soil and water conservation courses, says Dr. Bennett, should also be introduced into schools all the way from primary schools to the universities.

The conclusion reached is that the general position of land is not hopeless but that hard work, much thought and immediate action in some areas is vital to the well-being of next and future generations.

We don't want to see the desert conditions of North Africa repeated in the South.

Farmers Decide To Adopt Co-Operative Marketing Plan

ILARO—The farmers of this town and district met in the Orona Hall recently, when it was decided that the co-operative marketing system should be introduced into the Ilaro District.

Chief J. Oyekan, the Adele Olu of Ilaro, was in the chair, and there were two guests in the persons of Mr M. A. Oyewole and Mr O. Idowu, Co-operative Inspectors.

Mr Oyewole addressed the farmers on the aims, functions and benefits of the co-operative marketing system.

He illustrated his points by examples from Ibadan, Ile Ife and other important towns where the system had proved of immense value.

After his speech a resolution was passed desiring the introduction of the co-operative marketing system.

LADIES' CORNER

By Humanist

Nigerian Spokesman 1-16-45

Building Up African Enterprise (2)

One other bane of African business ventures is the lack of capital outlay.

Apart from the difficulty which faces Africans in the way of finding sufficient money to put down for a venture as business, it has also become a characteristic of the trade adventurers in this country not to bother much about the adequacy of their capital.

Once they can scrape together some few pounds, they think that they can start off at once, hoping that the future will look after itself. 1-16-45

When they have money for just one branch of business, they are prepared to risk it to establish three or four, with the result that none of them can stand well when the testing time comes, as it does come to all business enterprises.

And when the ruin comes, because of this lack of adequate preliminary preparedness, the African businessman is ready to lay the blame at the door of some one, either the man with the evil eye, a competitor who is more prepared for the jolting in the business world, or to the machinations of those he has trusted with the enterprise, forgetting that he has laid the foundation for the future crash when he does not find the necessary capital outlay.

And yet, too, one other barrier which stands in the way of successful African business enterprise is the lack of appreciation which others have in regard to advertisements.

In the case of non-Africans, there is always a preliminary skirmishing in the way of profuse advertisements about the coming venture. 1-16-45

The newspapers, placards, hoardings and other means are used to prepare the way for focussing the minds of the people on the patronage they will be asked for the new venture.

And even when the venture has begun, and it seems to be heading for a little success, the advertisement is not lost sight of because it helps to concentrate the minds of the public on the particular commodity that is thus offered for sale. 1-16-45

In some cases, a few hundred pounds are spent in this way, in some cases thousands of pounds are expended, and in some cases too tens of thousands of pounds are spent, the businessmen knowing fully well that the outlay will repay itself on a long-term policy.

But, as for the Africans, his foresight is cut short in this respect principally because of lack of adequate capital, and partly because of lack of ideas.

He seems to feel that people must buy his products, willy-nilly, as if there is a divine mission about business of any sort.

At times, such adventurers try to appeal to the patriotism of the patrons, but this invariably produces little result, because every intelligent African today knows that no one goes into business mainly because of patriotism or — philanthropy the chief idea being to make money.

Even where some little advertisement is done before a venture begins, once it has started off with modest success, the guardians of its destiny seem to feel that all is well and that they can rest on their oars.

There are other barriers to successful African business, and I shall deal with them in the future.

1-16-45

Meanwhile, let my readers think deeply over these and see whether they have been guilty in one respect or the other.

1a-1945 Economieal Conditions- Farming

Branch President Says Nigerian Farmers Must Emulate Their Gold Coast Brethren

West African Pilot — 2-2-1945

Accusing Nigerian farmers of apparent disinterestedness in their own welfare, Mr P. T. Coker of 32, Willoughby Street, Ebute Metta, and President of the Farmers' Committee of British West Africa, Nigeria branch, has appealed to them to emulate their brethren of the Gold Coast in their attempt to secure a fair deal by unity of action.

Despite insidious propaganda from certain quarters which benefit most from the disunity of the farmers, Mr Coker states, he had succeeded in rallying round about 8,000 farmers to accord a fitting reception to a delegation of Gold Coast farmers and a representative of American financiers who visited this country, recently.

Barring the Farmers' Protection Society founded by the writer and which had petitioned bodies like the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Society, WASU and the Gold Coast Farmers' Association, no farmers' organisation had protested against either the Cocoa Control Scheme or the obnoxious bills recently passed by the Legislative Council.

By means of a united front, continues Mr Coker, the Gold Coast farmers had managed to found the Farmers Committee, and had established a bank for the benefit of both Nigerian and Gold Coast farmers.

To this end, Mr Coker says he had, with the approval of about 8,000 farmers, drawn up a memorandum

This memorandum, he observes has been perused by the late Dr Henry Carr, Mrs Obasa, Mr Herbert Macaulay and others, and is supported by citations from the treaty of friendship and commerce at Ibadan in 1893, the Royal Instructions, and other papers.

In order to ensure the goodwill of all farmers, Mr Coker has called upon the Ibadan farmers to convene a meeting of farmers in the up country with a view to delegating members to Lagos for the discussion and ratification of the memorandum which, he says, must reach the British government before the end of June, if it is to be of any real good.

Foreman Prefers Flogging Apprentices Rather Than Reduce Wages For Offences

West African Pilot 5-15-45 Lagos

Mr N. B. Thomas, Foreman, of the United Africa Company Motor Department, admitted yesterday to flogging apprentices on the ground that he was doing them a favour by this rather than reduce their salaries for offences committed.

Mr Thomas, a foreman for 20 years, revealed that he had trained thousands of apprentices who had never given as much trouble as the present set. 5-15-45

Corporal punishment being inflicted on the apprentices was in his opinion to their advantage, in view of the money earned by them.

According to the order of the Service Manager, apprentices under five years' service who misbehaved or committed an offence were to be fined, suspended or sacked, but the foreman said that on his own account he approved of flogging rather than make them suffer financially.

Last Saturday some of these apprentices were asked to carry some iron blocks to a lorry in the yard.

Because he the foreman was not present, one of the apprentices, it is alleged, started to place down the iron blocks roughly. 5-15-45

When his colleagues checked him, he had become antagonistic and started to fight.

The particular boy attacked by him had, Mr Thomas said, just returned from hospital.

In a case like that, he the foreman would be held responsible.

Mr Thomas went on to recount some of the misbehaviours of the apprentices.

At another time, he said, one boy was preparing to close up five minutes before the scheduled time.

Foreman Thomas maintained that so long as these apprentices are learners they are in the category of schoolboys and that corporal punishment is necessary sometimes to check them, since they are not qualified workmen.

Request For African Tram Drivers And Conductors

The Bantu World Africa Johannesburg

In the opinion of the four Joint Advisory Boards for the Johannesburg Native townships, the use of Native drivers and conductors on the tram routes serving these townships would obviate "trouble" similar to that experienced recently. Spokesmen of the publicity committee of the Joint Boards told a "Rand Daily Mail" representative on Saturday that this proposal had been made frequently during the last two years but had been rejected.

"We are deeply concerned at this lawlessness and wish to co-operate with the City Council in trying to stop it," said one of the spokesmen. "But we do feel that the municipality is not altogether in sympathy with us, as all our proposals have been turned down. 4-28-45

"With regard to Mr. Verity's statement that the Natives will now be penalised because the overcrowding of trams will not be permitted any more, we might point out that responsible Natives have already been penalised, as they do not board these trams, preferring to wait until they can get a tram which is not so crowded.

"It is the irresponsible section among the Natives which has caused the trouble. But it must be admitted that the European drivers and conductors on the trams are not altogether blameless in this matter. We consider that they feel that it is humiliating to have to deal with Natives, and they show it in their attitude, which at times is very provocative.

"That is why we have suggested African drivers and conductors, but the Tramway Department seems to think that the proposal is not worthy of consideration.

"We also feel that the conductors are to blame for a certain amount of trouble. At the Nativation townships they allow piccanins to pull the trolleys round and permit them to ride on the back of the trams We feel that this encourages familiarity and leads later to lawlessness.

Unrest Among Natives.

Mochochonono Village Settlements Ma Seru, Basutoland 5-31-45

The review gives details of a village settlements scheme providing for the establishment of three types of village for Natives who need land for residence and not as a means of livelihood: peri-urban villages, to which workers will return at night from work in neighbouring European centres; industrial villages, to which workers will return at night from industrial or afforestation projects to be developed in the Reserves; and rural villages, in which workers in more distant centres will maintain their families, returning home periodically.

Although the Ciskeian General Council has asked that these proposals should be held over, the Department has decided to build an experimental settlement in the released area at Kingwilliamstown. 5-31-45

The campaign for increased production of food crops in Native areas continues to be successful. The Natives' aversion to eating green vegetables is slowly disappearing.

Potential Consumer.

"During the war the potentialities of the Native people both as consumers and producers have been more clearly realised ..... There is a consensus of well-informed opinion that soldiers' cash allotments have been spent principally on the purchase of more and better foodstuffs. The Native is clearly a potential consumer of much wider range of produets than he has hitherto been considered as such in future computations of the national capacity for production and consumption."

The review gives details of recommendations made by an interdepartmental committee, presided over by Dr P. J. du Toit, Director of Veterinary Services, for the training of Natives as veterinary assistants, and advocated that the possibility of providing an advanced course in agriculture should be considered.

"The Department is anxious that this scheme should be carried out as soon as circumstances permit, and is making inquiries with a view of selecting a suitable site for the training institution. 5-31-45

"The Department is contemplating the opening of agricultural training for ex Service men on suitable Trust farms.

Reporting that the cinema has been proved to have exceptional possibilities as a means of propaganda among Natives, the review says that films on leprosy, typhus and agriculture, with Native casts and suitable South African settings, are being prepared in collaboration with the film division of the Educational Department—"The Friend" 5-31-45

Economic Group Visit Liberian Republic

West African Pilot Lagos

Meet State Official

MONROVIA, May 17.—Dr George W. Harley, Mr Donald D. Smythe, and Mr Frederick Maresch of the Foreign Economic Administration to Liberia have been presented by His Excellency the American Minister to, and received in audience by His Excellency the Acting Secretary of State in the Department of State. 5-18-45

Mines & Trap: Delay Progress In Burma

West African Pilot

SEAC, May 6.—British and Indian troops of the 15th Indian Corps who landed on both banks of the Rangoon river and entered the city have occupied the jail and government house. 5-7-45

Syriam, south east of Rangoon, has also been occupied.

On the 14th Army front, flooded chaungs, mines, and booby traps are slowing down progress.

On the axis of the main road and railway leading to Rangoon our forward troops have reached milestone 323.

Following the clearing of Pegu, our troops are pursuing the enemy along its route of withdrawal eastwards towards Moulmein.

Operating east of Toungoo, other troops have reached a point five miles from the town. 5-7-45

On the road south of Prome our leading troops have reached milestone 154 from Rangoon.

Working Conditions In Our Mines

IF there is any section of the working community of any country that deserves the most sympathetic treatment, the most generous conditions of service and the most humane form of consideration, it is the colliery worker especially that type that goes down into the depths of the earth day in day out. West African Pilot

Throughout the chequered history of the labour movement, the element of collective bargaining has been one of the most, if not the most, useful and powerful weapons in the hands of workers. With this on their side, unscrupulous employers had been brought to their knees and at least a touch of humanity had been infused into conditions of service throughout the world. 4-24-45

Nigeria is not, and can never be, an exception to this rule; it is for us and those at the head of our labour organisations to view events realistically. Here is a ca[illegible] of 3,000 workers at Enugu Colliery ceasing work as a result, we are told, of a dispute over the terms of an award made after arbitration. We submit that, as far as this particular instance is concerned, we sense more in the air than we are permitted to.

While we do not necessarily justify downing tools illegally as a means of obtaining redress, we feel that the time has come when our Labour Department should seriously investigate the service condition of these workers and take the bold step of radically overhauling the status quo and laying down entirely new principles to govern the future service conditions of the men. 12905

Labour Desires Change In The Colonial Policy

West African Pilot 4-25-45

LONDON, April 24.—A radical change in the colonial policy in Africa including abolition of colour bar legislation will be called for in a motion to the Labour Party at their annual conference. 4-25-45

The motion to be presented by a local party branch reads:

"That the executive be asked to prepare a long-term plan for colonial territories in West and East Africa based on the following principles:

"Firstly, abolition of colour bar legislation and practices.

"Secondly, education facilities for all African children including adequate provision of schools for all colonial children and measures to liquidate adult illiteracy within the next 10 years.

"Thirdly, progressive participation of Africans in the central government to each territory and preferential appointment of qualified and competent Africans to administrative posts.

"Fourthly, control of largescale capitalist organisations in these areas with a view to the operation of an imaginative economic planning and co-operative enterprises through the government of war-time factories for peace time purposes, public acquisition of mines and the preservation of common lands in the interests of the African people" (Reuter).

World Trade Unionists Plan To Assist Coloured Workers In Africa & Indies

West African Pilot

Delegates Representing 50,000,000

Lagos Daily

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

2-19-45

LONDON.—Rallying to the clarion call of the German Jewish philosopher, Karl Marx, "proletarians of the world unite!" representative of 50,000,000 organised trade unionists have assembled in London, the capital of the greatest world-wide empire, to discuss ways and means to help the working classes of the world, regardless of race, colour or creed, achieve their emancipation after victory over the Axis powers has been achieved.

It is the first time since the Russian Bolsheviks overthrew the power of Czarist autocracy and set up the mighty Soviet power, that such a world conference of workers' representatives have come together.

2-19-45

Burying their past quarrels and differences which enabled Hitler and the forces of reaction to rise to power and destroy the labour and trade union movements in various European countries, the delegates plan the rebuilding of the working class organisations in the liberated countries and helping the coloured workers in Asia, Africa and the West Indies create strong trade unions.

2905

LABOUR UNITES

2-19-45

After defeats and set-backs, the leaders of the British Trades Union Congress have at last come to realise the truism of that wise old man, Marx, that "labour in the white skin can never free itself while labour in the black skin is enslaved"

Consequently, Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the TUC invited the coloured workers in various parts of the empire to send delegates to the world conference.

Ever ready to extend the hand of international solidarity to their white skin brothers of toil, the newly organised West African trade unions have sent representatives in order to put before the conference reports dealing with the low rates of wages, bad housing conditions and terribly long hours under which the workers in the mines, plantations and other capitalistic enterprises labour. 2-19-45

Nigeria, the largest British colony in African is represented by Mr T. A Bankole, the President of the Nigeria Trades Union Congress and Mr M. A. Tokunboh.

Gold Coast is represented by Mr G Annan and Gambia, by the Honourable E. F. Small, the father of West African trade-unionism, and labour representative on the legislative council of that colony

Mr Small is a veteran champion of the African workers, having represented them at conferences in Europe before the war. 2-19-45

1a-1945

Railway Workers' Union Plans Schemes For The Benefit Of Rank And File

West African Pilot

2-21-45 Lagos

Library Will Enhance Adult Education

In a moving message to members of the Railway Workers' Union, Mr S. I. Bosah, Acting President, shows how he has been operating the machinery of the union since his election

After giving an idea about some of the difficulties the union had been encountering, Mr Bosah reveals for the first time his efforts for the institution of benefit schemes for members of the union, as well as the plans being made for the establishment of a union library as a step up the ladder of adult education.

His message begins:

To the rank and file of the Railway Workers' Union of Nigeria greetings.

I have great pleasure in sending you this message so as to acquaint you with the facts of how the machinery of our dear union is being operated since my election as your Acting President. 2-21-45

Many things effecting the destiny of the union have, no doubt, happened since your delegates met in conference pretty six months ago and took important decisions — decisions arising out of affiliated souls which have had the mortification of passing through the crucible of labour exploitation for many years.

All the resolutions made at the conference have been duly forwarded to proper quarters but, from the tone of replies thereto so far received, it does seem the future holds out no tangible promise for railway workers, with special reference to post-war years.

However, be rest assured that the union is not despondent about what seems an uncompromising attitude adopted against it, but unshakeable in its determination to push matters forward constitutionally until justice is obtained.

You have been kept informed through your branch unions about the replies to the conference resolutions and it will therefore be superfluous on my part to dilate on them now. 2-21-45

Realising the inglorious part ignorance has not infrequently played in keeping workers misinformed about their interests, the union has recently embarked on a library scheme for which an initial sum of £100 has been earmarked to carry out.

The contents of the proposed library will embrace a wide range of books published on such subjects as trade unionism, engineering, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, classics, fictions, travels, etc., etc. 2-21-45

As soon as a suitable place is secured for the accommodation of books, the library will be put into operation.

However, the scheme is a part of the union's project for adult education.

I have pleasure in announcing for the information of all that the union has instituted three benefits subject, of course, to certain conditions, to wit:

(a) Funeral Benefit — under this benefit the union will assist in disbursing the funeral expenses of a dead financial member by giving a sum of five pounds to the chief mourner, provided death is not caused by suicide. 2-21-45

(b) Accident Benefit — in case of physical incapacitation suffered by a financial member of the union during the course of executing his duty in the railway premises, a sum of £10 will be paid as compensation to the victim, subject to an impartial inquiry.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

(c) Victimization Benefit — a financial member of the union who, in course of his trade union activities regarding the bona fide interests of the Railway Workers' Union, suffers victimization tacitly or openly, will be paid a sum of £50, subject to an impartial inquiry.

He will, in addition, receive a monthly wage which is known as unemployment benefit in case of loss of job.

The details of these benefits and the time they will be put into operation will be communicated to all branch unions later.

Economic Conditions

The membership of the union, since the last annual conference, has been, in the Gladstonian phraseology, "leaping and bounding."

Negotiations are going on at the moment for the affiliation to the union of such railway workers' associations as the Supervisory Staff Union, the Eastern Permanent Staff Union and the Higher Course Apprentices.

The position of finance is encouraging and if it continues to improve, the union, it is hoped, shall be on a fairly good financial basis by the end of the current year.

Nevertheless, this hope can only come true if all members will make it a point of duty to pay their dues regularly.

I therefore appeal to all and sundry to see to it that dues are paid unfailingly.

Sound finance is the first cousin of trade unionism for without same no labour movement can boldly and successfully stand on its legs.

Do not take things for granted.

Pay your subscriptions NOW!

Let warning be taken by those individuals who rush to the press with ill-informed ideas about matters affecting the union.

HERITAGE FOR POSTERITY

Much as the union welcomes intelligent and well-informed articles about the railway labour problems, the onus of responsibility cannot be accepted by the executive council or any branch of the union regarding any article, unless such publication is officially approved.

The secretariat of the union is open to any member who seeks for an information.

Efficiency must characterize the quality of every member.

A slacker must not be tolerated.

He should be given the jerking up.

Do not make a bad job of your case.

Rather, be cool headed and communicate your branch secretary who will assist you to obtain redress in a constitutional manner.

More leaders are needed to help build a heritage for posterity..... leaders who have the guts in their brains, stout hearts and cool heads.

Leadership, nay trade union leadership, is a thankless job and he who must lead should not expect any personal gain, except toil and sweat.

Railroad Workers' Union

The aspirations of the Railway Workers' Union are legitimate and in keeping with the best traditions of trade unionism.

Who says it is a crime to ask for a better condition of employment?

The union is nonetheless aware that mutual consideration and esteem are the chief corner stones of every business house.

Long live the Railway Workers' Union!

Haile Selassie Gives Sinclair Big Oil Grant

The Richmond Time Dispatch

Exclusive Concession To Run 50 Years

Richmond, Virginia 9-7-45

NEW YORK, Sept. 6 (AP)—Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia has granted an exclusive oil concession covering his entire 350,000 square mile empire to the Sinclair Oil Corporation, part of it under a 50-year lease, it was announced today by H. F. Sinclair, president.

In return for the right to explore for and ship petroleum out of the country, the oil company will pay royalties to the Emperor in addition to building one or more schools and hospitals, clinics and research foundations. It also will pay for educating Ethiopians in the United States for the next 10 years.

Once before, in 1935, Haile Selassie deeded more than half his empire for exploitation and development by Anglo-American oil interests. At that time he acted in the vain hope that this would halt an anticipated Italian invasion. The deal, engineered by British Promoter Francis M. Rickett, finally fell through after causing a world furore.

The governments in London and Washington issued statements. The controlled Italian press called the Rickett arrangement a "scandal" and termed it an attempt to create a buffer concession between Addis Ababa and Italian East Africa.

The concession just signed by Sinclair comes almost on the eve of a meeting of foreign ministers in London, at which the question of Italy's one-time foreign empire may be discussed. Ethiopia is entirely cut off from the Red Sea and Indian Ocean by Italian Eritrea and French, British and Italian Somililand.

The new grant was signed in New York for Ethiopia by Ato Aklilou Abte Wold, vice-minister of foreign affairs and his country's chief delegate to the San Francisco security conference.

Under the concession, all oil development rights for the entire territory—equal in size to Texas and Oklahoma combined, with Massachusetts and Rhode Island thrown in—will rest exclusively with the Sinclair corporation for five years. Then 50 per cent of the territory will be released. After a further exploratory period of five years, another 25 per cent of the country will be released from the agreement.

Whether there was any monetary grant outside of royalties and the provisos for developing the country was not announced.

Agreement To Give Schools For Africans

Oil Company Contracts 50-Year Exploitation Job With Ancient Land

By JULIUS J. ADAMS
(Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (Special) — Schools, hospitals and sanitation facilities, so badly needed by Ethiopia, are in the cards for that ancient landlocked empire of Emperor Haile Selassie—that is provided the Sinclair Oil people strike oil when they start drilling for that precious fuel, sometime in the near future.

Gethoun Tesemma, first secretary of the Imperial Ethiopian Legation here, speaking in the absence of Ethiopian Minister Blatta Ephrem T. Medhen, who is in London, talked freely Tuesday about the agreement between his government and the Sinclair Oil Company under terms of which Sinclair gets claims to all oil taken from Ethiopia for the next 50 years, and Ethiopia gets royalties in addition to hospitals, schools, railroads, clinics and other concessions, including scholarships for Ethiopian students to study in institutions abroad. The amount of the royalties was not disclosed.

Facts Substantially Correct

Mr. Tesemma, however, was quick to explain that his government has not released any information concerning the agreement, but that he was sure the facts as related last week by the Sinclair people are substantially correct. The first secretary was not any too certain about the early establishment of hospitals or schools, pointing out that nothing will be done in the way of building until Sinclair discovers the extent of oil deposits in the country. It seems to be: No oil, no schools. Sinclair, under the contract, will have jurisdiction over the entire 350,000 square miles of Ethiopian territory as far as oil production is concerned.

In stressing the dire need for schools, Mr. Tesemma said that during the Italian occupation all the schools were turned into military barracks and all educated Ethiopians, except those who took refuge in other countries or went underground, were killed. After the restoration of the government, the secretary said, "we had to start from scratch. In spite of that handicap we now have 83 schools, some of which are of high school, vocational, technical and commercial levels.

Doctors Are Foreigners

"Hospitalization," he said, is very bad. "There are more diseases than there were in 1935. Doctors are scarce, the few we have being foreigners, mainly British and American." Questioned about a report that Ethiopia is due to be given Italian Somaliland and Eritrea, Mr. Tesemma said he had not heard about it, but that "we aspire for them and look forward to receiving them." Mr. Tesemma also said Ethiopia must have an outlet to the sea, it at present, being locked in by British, Italian and French Somaliland and by Eritrea.

"There are several ports on the sea we could have," the secretary said. "Eritrea and Mogadishu in Italian Somaliland." Mr. Tesemma sees the Sinclair deal as working not only to benefit the two parties to the contract, but also as a strong influence in good relations between Ethiopia and the United States. "Feeling has always been good in my country for the United States, you know," declared he with an air of pride. "The United States never did recognize the Italian occupation. We had the moral support of Americans throughout all our trials."

A report from London, where the council of Foreign Ministers are meeting, said Ethiopia will demand Eritrea and Somaliland from Italy. It has been said also that Ethiopia had obtained a promise of support from the U. S. State Department in Selassie's demands for Italian territory.

Discussed For 18 Months

The secretary said the agreement between his government and Sinclair had been in the making for more than 18 months. He said he did not know just when work would begin, asserting that the company has not yet established offices in Ethiopia. Mr. Tesemma made it clear that the deal with Sinclair was purely a business agreement and that the company would have nothing at all to do with the policy of the government, domestic or foreign. Asked if there was any tendency on the part of the Ethiopians to adopt the ways of the West, Mr. Tesemma said it is the policy of the government to adhere to Ethiopian traditions and culture, but if this is changed by evolution, "I guess there is nothing we can do about it."

"Ethiopia has progressed nicely since the restoration," Mr. Tesemma said. The government is stable and education is moving along. The country is chiefly agricultural, and while the country's finances are meager, its chief exports are hides, coffee, besewax and civet, the latter being a commodity used in making high grade perfumes. Because Ethiopia is mainly an agricultural and cattle-raising country, the people have not suffered for want of food, Mr. Tesemma said. "Our exports would be greater," he pointed out, "if inland transportation and shipping space were adequate. There has been no census in Ethiopia, but the estimates put the population at between 12 and 20 million. Officially it is presumed to be 15 million."

Killed Educated Ethiopians

During the occupation by the Italians, Mr. Tesemma said some roads were built but that the systematic extermination of all educated Ethiopians that Italians could find, is something that will never be forgotten. Mr. Tesemma, 31 years old, is of medium height, brown-skinned with fairly sharp features. His hair is slowly thinning in front. He speaks in soft tones, uses almost flawless English, and is exceptionally gracious. He was interviewed in his second floor office of the Imperial Ethiopian Legation, 2134 Kalorama Road, in the heart of the Embassy district.

Below his window is the flower garden of the Egyptian Legation which is next door, and across the street is the distinguished Embassy of France. Educated in Ethiopia and at Beirut University in Syria, Mr. Tesemma was studying medicine when the war broke out and he had to quit. He turned to diplomacy. During the early days of the Italo-Ethiopian war, he was in Ethiopia but later took refuge in the Sudan. In 1941 Mr. Tesemma was made director general in the Ministry of Pen, (similar to the British Privy Council) and in 1942, he was appointed director general of Administrative Service in the Ministry of the Interior and remained in that position until October, 1943, when he was appointed first secretary of the legation here.

With Mr. Tesemma and the Minister, a second secretary, Mr. Petros Sahlon, and an American clerk, the official staff is complete. Asked if there is any chance that Emperor Haile Selassie will come to America any time soon, Mr. Tesemma said he doesn't know, but that "all of us hope he will come." The secretary expressed the opinion that the Emperor would like to visit America. As he spoke, he turned and looked admiringly at a huge picture of the Emperor on the wall. Mr. Tesemma said there are a number of Americans, white and Negro, employed in the government at its capital, Addis Ababa. He said that his country would welcome skilled craftsmen and technical men, adding that he believes the opportunity for them in Ethiopia is "very good."

Outlines Program



GETHOUN TESEMMA, first secretary of the Imperial Ethiopian Legation in Washington, who explained to the press last week the agreement between his government and the Sinclair Oil Company under which the company gets claims to all oil taken from Ethiopia for the next 50 years, and the country gets royalties in addition to hospitals, schools, railroads, clinics and other concessions, including scholarships for Ethiopian students to study in institutions abroad.—g.

Economic Gain for Ethiopia Seen

Afro-American
Baltimore Md.

Sinclair Oil Deal to Aid Nation's Economy

9-22-45

SCHOOLS NEEDED

Envoy Tells Afro of Decided Advantages

By MABLE ALSTON

WASHINGTON

A tremendous improvement in the economic and social life of Ethiopia as a result of the oil deal with Harry S. Sinclair is envisioned by Getahoun Tesemma, first secretary of the Ethiopian Legation, he told the AFRO this week.

Speaking in the absence of Minister Blatta Ephrem Twelde Medhen, who is in London attending the United Nations relief conference, Mr. Tesemma pointed out that due to internal and external strife over a long period the progress of Ethiopia has been retarded. The Sinclair deal looks like a way to obtain some of the funds to make the long-needed improvements.

9-22-45

He explained that there would be better economic and social conditions since the government would be in a better financial position to carry out needed reforms.

Had No Money

He continued: "The Ethiopian government when restored did not have any money nor could they tax their people who had been without for so long. The country did, however, in 1942 get $12,500,000 from Britain but it was not through a loan but a reciprocal trade agreement.

"To some it seems that Ethiopia way across the frontier and joined the Ethiopian patriots. I was educated at the Menelik school of Ethiopia and Beriut University. Had it not been for my successful escape I would have been slaughtered along with several hundred of my classmates.

"Before the war we had schools all over the province, but when the government was restored there was not a school left and the majority of our educated people had been murdered.

Only 86 Schools Left

At present we have 86 schools; two secondary, one technical, one commercial, one teachers' training, one agricultural school. We hope in the very near future to make it a college and in addition to the school we have several agriculture centers. All of the schools," he explained, "teach English and modern education.

"During the five years of interchurch schools were permitted to church schools were permitted to teach but they only taught the Ethiopian language and customs. None of the benefits of modern education were included in the curriculum.

"At present," he pointed out, "our government has no funds to establish industries but we are certain to have them.

"The demand for hides, skins and Civet (a juice secreted from the cat family for use in the most expensive perfumes) is very great. We are also producing wheat, barley, coffee and numerous other commodities but at present there is just enough for local consumption.

To Establish Health Centers

He explained that the Sinclair corporation will pay his country royalties. The company will establish health centers, schools and housing for native labor wherever necessary. Many of the buildings and centers will depend on the successful outcome of the five-year agreement which will cover more than 50 per cent of Ethiopia.

"There is one thing certain; our people will not be exploited with such business establishments as commissaries. He emphasized that "there is one advantage of Ethiopia's backwardness. Her leaders have gained experience from other countries' mistakes.

Ethiopia Could Supply Food

Surplus Beef and Grain Available to Supply Stricken Europe

New York Times

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Wynant D. Hubbard states in a letter to THE TIMES that it distresses him to read about the world food shortage, because he knows the food resources of the world are not being utilized. The importance of his knowledge is based on actual experience as the acting chief of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation mission that was commissioned to visit Ethiopia to explore the possibilities of what Ethiopia could contribute to the relief pool.

It would, as Mr. Hubbard remarks, be a relatively simple matter to prepare and deliver processed meat to seaboard—either Djibouti or Massawa. Transportation from these ports to European Mediterranean ports could be accomplished in considerably less time than it would take from American Atlantic or Gulf ports, thus effecting a great saving in both time and costs. I would say Ethiopia's prices for beef cattle are from a third to a half cheaper than here. Native labor is infinitely cheaper, plentiful and fairly good.

Valuable time has been lost in discussing Europe's food problems, but apparently it has gone little beyond this stage. Unless something material is done, and done quickly, we will, in effect, be asking those millions of starving Europeans to accept sympathy for sustenance.

10-18-45

Ethiopia's potentialities of assistance in this respect could scarcely have been overlooked at the Hot Springs conference in June, 1943, particularly since she was providing large quantities of grain to the Middle East supply center through the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation. Having satisfied its requirements, the U. K. C. C. discontinued purchases of Ethiopian grain many months ago, thereby adversely affecting Ethiopia's economic progress, because she was unable to find foreign customers for the surplus production which had been considerably increased to supply the U. K. C. C. demand.

Mr. Hubbard states he made his recommendation to the appropriate authorities some eight months ago. It is to be hoped the United Nations Food Conference at Quebec will do a little more than just look into the Ethiopian larder and make some practical use of this source of supply.

10-4-45

Ethiopia has untold and untouched rich productive soil that would quickly respond to scientific agricultural management with little effort and expense. There seems to be no reason other than thoughtlessness that these fertile resources have been neglected and left unproductive in a world so out of balance in nourishment.

In utilizing these resources it would accomplish the twofold purpose of assisting Ethiopia in her economic progress of rehabilitation and at the same time provide a source of food supply so urgently required to prevent starvation in undernourished countries.

JOHN H. SHAW,
Consul General of Ethiopia.

New York, Oct. 15, 1945.

Mr Bosah Warns Fellow Trade Unionists About Wise Spending Of Salary Arrears

West African Pilot 1905

The news that the Nigerian Railway is soon to pay its mechanical workers arrears of salary ranging over a period of 10 years (1931-1941) is now common property.

The amount of money to be so involved — £22,000 — is also well known.

Feeling that the members of his union to be so fortunate as to draw these arrears really deserve the award, and dispelling the vague idea that the right of award was obtained easily, Mr S. L. Bosah, Acting President of the Railway Workers' Union of Nigeria, has addressed a message to his fellow union members, calling to mind the circumstances that led to this victory.

Mr Bosah, after tracing very briefly, the history of the union, ends with a note of warning to his men.

He asks them not to squander this "princely sum" in gleeful dissipation' but to have what he calls a "thoughtful programme" for the utilisation of what is to come in to them.

Text of his message reads:

To the rank and file of the Railway Workes' Union, greetings!

I feel it is a great privilege on my part, as your Acting President, to have the honour to announce that the now-famous arrears of £22,000 to be received by Railway workers so affected is well nigh to be paid.

Before I acquaint you with the real purport of this message, however, I shall endeavour to refresh your minds with the origin of the whole matter.

You are all aware that the hourly system of pay was introduced in the Railway Mechanical Department on April 1, 1931, for the main purpose of facilitating cost accounts.

In other words, it was a means whereby cost of production could be easily assessed.

This system of payment, eventually, elicited a conversion of workers' wages from daily to hourly calculations.

The adjustment so far made was not generally satisfactory in that wages rose or fell to the nearest standard rate of pay.

It will be superfluous to bother you at the moment with examples, as you are all masters of the situation.

The other snag in the new system was that workers received five hours pay on Saturday, instead of eight hours pay as was the case during the daily system.

In other words, there came into existence 45 hour week instead of the usual 48.

Consequently, workers were not pleased with the trend of events, and, therefore, made strong representations to the management against two things:

(a) Fall in certain wages to the nearest standard rate of pay.

(b) Loss of three hours on Saturdays.

To these representations there was no favourable reply each time they were made either in the form of correspondence or interview.

On November 30, 1932, the job card system was also introduced.

In this regard, the name of a worker, the number of hours he spent in producing an article and his hourly wage were recorded on a job card so as to enable the accountant to determine the cost of production.

There was another snag in this system: the "idle time" column!

It meant that the period which elapsed between the time a job was finished and another job started would be treated as "idle time."

On the face of this, workers became apprehensive that there might not be any payment for "idle time."

On December 1, 1932, there was a two-hour cessation of work from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. in protest of the job card system.

It, however, took the wisdom of a Chief Mechanical Engineer Major M. P. Sells to lure the workers back to their jobs and then cancel the idle time column . . . .

Realizing that without a well organised body nothing could be achieved the first union of Railway workers was formed in December, 1932, under the name the Railway Workers' Association which, later, was re-christened Railway Workers' Union.

This was how the first properly organised trade union was born in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the union was passing through a "school of war," fighting for this or that amenity among which were abolition of hourly payment, holiday with pay, attendance at hospital or dispensary with pay, etc. etc.

In October, 1937, the union was successful in having a general increase in wages which was said to have involved a huge sum of £100,000.

Later, the loss sustained by certain workers during the conversion of 1931 was restored!

On October 1, 1941, through the unrelenting efforts of the union, the hourly system of pay was totally abolished and a large number of employees became absorbed in fixed establishment.

Now, after 14 years of petitioning and interviewing, the losses sustained in wages on Saturdays for 10 long years are to be given back to those concerned.

The foregoing, however, is a rough sketch of the circumstances surrounding the arrears of £22,000 to be received shortly.

They marked, in a bold relief, the beginning of organised trade union movement in Nigeria.

At the moment a short history of the Railway Workers' Union is in preparation, and in it a detailed account of "Saturday Pay" will be embodied.

£22,000 !

What a princely sum of money to be received by an army of workers chastened and hardened by stark experiences !

Will you learn by your sufferings of yesteryears and then think seriously what you are to do with what you will receive for your benefit and that of your households?

The sentimental manner in which some of you demonstrate your eagerness to receive the arrears seems to show that some appear to have no thoughtful programme for the utilization of what they will have, but simply to get their dues and squander them in gleeful dissipation.

I am glad to observe that there are sensible fellows who are busy dreaming dreams and seeing visions of useful channels to direct the earnings.

I am to call your attention to the fact that mercantile houses, petty traders, boma boys, money changers, impostors of the most dangerous kind, prostitutes, etc , etc., are busy racking their brains as to how to snatch away this huge money from you in parts.

There are many avenues whereby you can invest your money to advantage, to wit; thrift societies, co-operative societies, etc.

I am well pleased that new monetary societies are being formed to collect funds for a meaningful purpose.

Go and take advantage of one, right now.

To those who appear to live in fools' paradise, who think that the world will be all roses after the war, I say you are running off the rails, and, if you do not be careful, yours, in the end, shall be one of tears and gnashing of teeth !

After the war, some essential war works may be closed down and thousands of men thrown out of job.

What has happened recently in the BOAC, I hope, is still fresh in your minds.

I do not suggest the Railway management will retrench people after the war, but you should not lose sight of the fact that our communal economics permit of financial aid to a jobless relative.

It is there you are affected.

However, bear in mind that some discharged soldiers will be given jobs in the Railway after the end of hostilities, and, for that reason, duds may not be tolerated any longer, but shown their way through the gate.

The trade union movement may be shaken to its foundation, and its war-time "bluff" be lashed out of it by resorting to subtle methods of slow-poisoning in the form of a rigorous sweating of labour, dismissals, retrenchments, transfers and victimization.

I don't say you will be directly affected by these things, but don't forget that you may be indirectly affected by others outside your own labour camp being affected.

Please be good enough to pay your levy of 2s. 6d or 5s., according to what you receive, as agreed upon by members.

Let us hope that, after the war all will be well.

Let us hope that, with the subjugation of Nazism, the time-worn world economic cycle of prosperity, crisis, international controversy and war will give way to permanent peace and prosperity.

Let us hope the world will now be really made safe for democracy.

Let us hope the workingman will be remembered in the scheme of things.

Be forewarned that today you mus start to seek your economic salvation by keeping something aside for a rainy day.

I am done.

Long live the Railway Workers Union!

Union Takes Up Case Of Unpaid Nurses

Public Opinion

Because they refuse a fortnight ago, wages which was less than what they considered themselves entitled to, two nurses at the government's tuberculosis clinic got no pay at all last week-end.

The pay-clerk admitted to an official of the Government Prisons and Hospitals Employees Union yesterday that the nurses had worked and were entitled to pay; but intimated that he had received orders not to include them on the pay-bill.

The matter has been taken up with Major T. J. Hallinan Director of Medical Services. The nurses' complaint in the first case was that no provision had been made with respect to certain allowances due to them.

World Trade Unionists Plan To Assist Coloured Workers In Africa & Indies

Delegates Representing 50,000,000

By GEORGE PADMORE,

LONDON.—Rallying to the clarion cell of the German Jewish philosopher, Karl Marx, "proletarians of the world unite!" representative of 50,000,000 organised trade unionists have assembled in London, the capital of the greatest world-wide empire, to discuss ways and means to help the working classes of the world, regardless of race, colour or creed, achieve their emancipation after victory over the Axis powers has been achieved.

It is the first time since the Russian Bolsheviks overthrew the power of Czarist autocracy and set up the mighty Soviet power, that such a world conference of workers' representatives have come together.

Burying their past quarrels and differences which enabled Hitler and the forces of reaction to rise to power and destroy the labour and trade union movements in various European countries, the delegates plan the rebuilding of the working class organisations in the liberated countries and helping the coloured workers in Asia, Africa and the West Indies create strong trade unions.

LABOUR UNITES

After defeats and set-backs, the leaders of the British Trades Union Congress have at last come to realise the truism of that wise old man, Marx, that "labour in the white skin can never free itself while labour in the black skin is enslaved."

Consequently, Sir Walter Citrine, General Secretary of the TUC invited the coloured workers in various parts of the empire to send delegates to the world conference.

Ever ready to extend the hand of international solidarity to their white skin brothers of toil, the newly organised West African trade unions have sent representatives in order to put before the conference reports dealing with the low rates of wages, bad housing conditions and terribly long hours under which the workers in the mines, plantations and other capitalistic enterprises labour.

Nigeria, the largest British colony in African is represented by Mr T. A Bankole, the President of the Nigeria Trades Union Congress and Mr M. A. Tokunboh.

Gold Coast is represented by Mr G Annan and Gambia, by the Honourable E. F. Small, the father of West African trade unionism, and labour representative on the legislative council of that colony

Mr Small is a veteran champion of the African workers, having represented them at conferences in Europe before the war.

Wage Strike Hits Nigeria

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Courier's London Correspondent)

LONDON—A general strike, which got under way last Thursday, has swept throughout Nigeria, Great Britain's largest West African colony. It has been estimated that 100,000 government workers, demanding wage increases to meet higher living costs, are involved in the strike.

Dock, transport and motor railway services have been interrupted, according to reports reaching here.

The strike is reported to have started among Africans employed on the government railways and at engineering shops, later spreading to embrace all other government employees. Non-government workers employed by private enterprises have declared sympathetic support by refusing to serve as strike-breakers.

REFUSED WAGE DEMANDS

The government workers were ordered on strike after the acting governor of Nigeria refused to agree to a demand of the United Front Strike Committee for fifty per cent increase on existing African wages as well as a fifty-cent minimum daily wage for irregular and unskilled African workers employed on government controlled railways.

SELECT NEW LEADER

Strikers ignored an appeal to return to their jobs, declaring that they will hold out until their demands are met.

T. A. Bankol, president of the Nigeria Trade Union Congress (he represented Nigeria at the World Trade Union Conference in February last year), has been deposed by union members, it was learned, because he appealed to them to call off the strike at the request of the acting governor. Bankoll was reported replaced by A. O. Imoude, president of the Railway Workers' Union. Imoude was released from a concentration camp where he was held like Wallace Johnson, labor leader of Sierra Leone, in protective custody under war-time defense regulations.

After his release from prison, Imoude returned to Lagos June 2, riding a white horse. He was received like a conquering hero and acclaimed by thousands.

Strikers are members of the following unions: African Civil Servants Technical Workers, African Railway Workers, African Land and Survey Technical Workers, Posts and Telegraph Work Shop Workers, Nigerian Electrical Workers, Lagos Town Council Workers, Public Works Workers, Nigerian Marine African Workers, Locomotive Drivers, Public Work Sawmill Workers, Nigeria Union of Nurses, African Inspectors Union, Railway Topographical Union and Railway Station Staff Union.

—VV



Miss Frances Claudia Wright, 22, native of Sierra Leone, who is the first woman barrister in that part of Africa. She has joined her father, C. E. Wright, one of the best known members of the bar in Sierra Leone. Miss Wright, in England since childhood, was educated at Bedford Modern Scohol, where she spent 12 years. En route to Sierra Leone her ship bombed and sunk.

Lawyers in Africa Are Able but Ragged

By VINCENT TUBBS

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — (Via Air Mail)—The African barrister, solicitor, magistrate or judge is as able a dispenser of jurisprudence as there is under God's sun, but unles he is a recent qualifier for the bar, he is invariably as ragged as a bowl of kraut.

Since our arrival in West Africa, members of the NNPA Commission have been guests on the benches of two African judges. His Honor J. Hensley Coussey of Accra, Gold Coast, and another. We sat on the bench beside them.

Of Monied Class

Now this business of a lawyer's being ragged doesn't necessarily mean that he isn't a successful man. On the contrary, he is of the monied class, and almost four out of five Africans, able to study in the United Kingdom, go there to qualify for the bar.

It seems there is something in the African temperament that makes them weak for litigation; so the lawyer always has plenty to do.

His being ragged is due to tradition. Once a man (or woman) receives his long black robe, that looks like a graduation gown, he must never buy a new one, no matter how worn the original becomes.

In the courts we have seen State's Attorneys and lawyers in yellowed marcelled wigs and robes that even the dog wouldn't bother to play with.

Proceedings are interesting. In one case the judge read out a 60-odd page decision in partnership litigation. He always writes and reads aloud his decision and the basis upon which it is reached.

The judge also does the work of the court stenographer. He records in long hand each question put to a witness by the State's attorney, and the witnesses' answer.

When there is a long question or answer, several minutes may elapse before the cross-examiner continues with the witness.

Courtroom Staid

The courtroom is marked by staid, Victorian decorum. An opposing barrister raises an objection to his opponent's question to a witness only after he has first obtained his opponent's permission by nodding and bowing a little to him.

Most questions are put to a witness as a statement ending with "Is that not so?" to which the witness answers "Correct" or "Not so."

Sitting in the aisle between spectators is a "boy" who pulls a rope attached to an Indian "punkah," which flops over the barristers who sit at a 16-foot long table before the bench.

Wonders About Defendant

At times the judge, who wears glasses that are half moons allowing him to look through them as he writes and over them to "eye" the court, stops the procedings to query lawyers so closely that the American observer is not always certain who is on trial.

When there are issues over introduction of certain documents as evidence, the judge may consult one of many books before him and when he decides, the winning lawyer rises and bows to him.

Liberia's 1944 Revenue Amounts To $1,598,400

MONROVIA, Liberia—(ANP)—Liberia's revenue collections would indicate that the war time prosperity which is evident in other countries has also reached this republic. Treasury reports show the revenues from taxes, duties, imports and other governmental sources of revenue, reached the all-time high of $1,598,400.94 during 1944. In several other years the figure has reached the million mark but never before has it reached this high.

Financial And Economic Situation In Liberia Improves Despite War Impact

By JACOB BROWNE, Our Own Correspondent

MONROVIA, May 30.—An immediate press release has been made public by the Honourable William E. Dennis, Secretary of the Treasury, Republic of Liberia, touching substantial Loan Payment made against the 1926 Loan:

"In spite of the impact of the war upon the general economy of Liberia the financial and economic situation of the country has steadily improved, particularly in the latter part of the administration of President Edwin Barclay.

"This trend has continued under the wise leadership of President W. V. S Tubman since his inauguration on January 3, 1944.

"A few years ago the Government of Liberia was in arrears both as to interest and amortization on its foreign obligations.

"Now it not only has liquidated these arrears but is able to purchase an additional amount of 350,000 dollars.

"The Secretary of the Treasury, the Honourable Williams E. Dennis, has just transmitted a cheque in the above sum to the Liberian Consul of treasury matters; it was during his time that the revenues of the country reached the millionth dollar mark for the first time in the history of the country; in this position, Mr Dennis won for himself a lot of friends.

In 1925, he graduated from Liberia College with Mr Henry F. Cooper, who has served as Liberian Consul-General at Liverpool and Hamburg, and Mis Rebecca Cassell, a professor of Liberia College.

Mr Dennis followed the legal profession, and up to his elevation to the post of Secretary of the Treasury by President Tubman, was in the forefront of the profession; his clients were wide and varied.

As a patent and trade mark attorney, he is still unequalled in his profession.

His business is still thriving under the able and efficient management of Mr S. Raymond Horace.

Mr Dennis accompanied President Barclay to the interior on one of his official tours, and was chairman of the Liberian delegation to the Bretton Woods Monetary Conference.

He is a Baptist, former superintendent of his sunday school, treasurer of the Trustee Board of Liberia College, and a member of the Trustee Board of the College of West Africa.

He is a Grandmaster of the United Brothers of Friendship, a purely Negro fraternity, and also of the masonic fraternity.

His wife, Mrs Magdalene I. Cooper-Dennis is the first Liberian graduate Registered Nurse from Lincoln School of Nurses (New York) and has actually been dubbed the "Florence Nightingale of Liberia."

She is presently in charge of the Baptist Hospital here.

General of New York to be handed over to the National City Bank of New York, fiscal agents of the Republic of Liberia, for redemption of its 7 percent Gold loan bonds.

"By this payment the Republic has reduced its foreign outstanding indebtedness, to less than 800,000 dollars.

"The constantly increasing quantity of plantation rubber Liberia has supplied the Allied Nations for the successful prosecution of the war against the Axis Powers has been largely contributory to this happy situation of the country.

"During the war Liberia has produced approximately 10,000 tons of fine plantation rubber."

Mr Dennis, before taking over the Treasury, was an independent business man, being owner of the firm of Dennis and Company.

During his youthful days, he served as Chief Clerk of the Treasury Department under Mr J. Jeremiah Harris.

It was during this time that Mr Dennis acquired his full knowledge

Conditions In Liberia Outlined; Exploitation, Bickering Continue

MONROVIA, Liberia—(ANP)—President W. V. S. Tubman's recent annual message to the legislature was a review of the affairs of the country for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30. The budget had been balanced, and already excess revenue had been collected.

While exports had reached an reasonable high, yet he warned that mainly rubber and gold contributed to this, and with rubber once more being produced in the Dutch East Indies, Liberians would have to cultivate other crops for export.

The President referred to the mining concession being granted one Lansdell K. Christie of the United States to have "the exclusive right and privilege to search for and exploit deposits of iron ore and other ores, metals, and minerals, with the exception of gold platinum and diamonds and other precious stones;" the life of this contract is eight years.

The agreement has been forwarded to the legislature for approval. Committees on mines and mining are studying it carefully, and Arthur Sherman, only Liberian mining engineer, a graduate of Montana School of Mines, Butte, Mont., is expected to be called in to give evidence.

NOT CALLED BEFORE

Sherman has been loaned to the Raymond Concrete Pile Company by the government, and in order to stall him, Mr. Christie has thru his legal representative here, Counsellor H. Lafayette Harmon, offered Sherman a position with the new setup. Regrettably. Sherman was never called by the negotiators when the contract was being made.

While Liberians welcome concessions, so far none has proved beneficial to the people. Liberians instead have only been tools of the concessionaire. They are underpaid, made to work extra hours, and carried to a little degree higher than the lower animals. Although reports say plenty of money is spent in the country, yet the economic level is not raised, and only the foreign employees receive the benefit.

FIRESTONE ASSAILED

At Firestone, the worst foreign-occupied home is better than the best home occupied by the senior Liberian employee. Although Firestone runs a hydro-electric plant, current is denied Liberian employees. Although the company has sufficient transportation, yet Liberians have to walk miles to work, whilst their "white masters" pass them by dusting them along the road. The labor law recently passed by the legislature is not observed by Firestone, as such; they dismiss at will, and nothing is said.

If a concession enters the country pledged to develop the educational, social, and economic welfare of the country; if they are pledged to build roads, hospitals, clinics, etc., whereby the masses receive benefit, then well done!

ECONOMIC MISSION

The economic mission to Liberia headed by Carl Parker Hanson, white, is doing some good work. Hanson got into some difficulty with government by dabbling into Liberian politics. The American government was requested to recall him (as first revealed by the Journal and Guide last April).

Kenneth Meeker was sent out to iron out difficulties. In a conference held with the President, at which U. S. Minister Lester Walton was present, Meeker admitted that Hanson had transcended his bounds by entering into Liberian politics, and that Hanson had regretted it. He asked that Hanson be given another chance, and that he would remain in Liberia for a while to direct him in his work.

He also mentioned that at this time, it would be very hard to get a man of Hanson's ability to head the job here. Government conceded, and since then Hanson has been moving along well. His trouble with Minister Walton was due to the diplomatic status assigned Hanson by the Liberian State Department during the absence of Walton. That seemed to now be settled.

DOING MUCH GOOD

The economic mission is doing much to aid in agriculture. Seeds of all description, insecticides, sprays, etc., are on sale at the bureau of agriculture at cost price, and over $2,500 worth has already been sold within a short period.

Frank Pinder, senior agriculturist, controls this, collaborating with Charles Trout, U. S. agricultural specialist, and Bai Tai Moore, Liberian government's agriculturist. The FEA, with cooperation from government, will be able to do much towards developing the economic level of the country.

PUBLIC HEALTH MISSION

President Tubman, in his message, challenged the statement of Lt. Col. John W. Best, director of U. S. Public Health Service Mission, in which he stated that venereal disease was rampant in Liberia and sulfa-resistant.

The President based his challenge upon a repudiation made by three other medical practicioners in Liberia, one of which had been in the country over six years.

The President was suspicious of the motive behind such an allegation, and left it open for Col. West to prove his statement. Lt. Col. West was in Washington undergoing an operation at the time of the message. Since his return, West has had several talks with Minister Walton and President Tubman, but nothing has been revealed concerning them.

AN EXPLANATION

(EDITOR'S NOTE—As a member of the three-man commission sent to Liberia and to British and French colonies in West Africa last year at the direction of President Roosevelt, I had a chance to know beyond question that diseases are rampant. This is true everywhere in Africa and is largely due to the climate, lack of drainage, health education, lower living standards, government attitudes, and the ever-present mosquito and tesese fly, bearers of yellow fever, malaria (a far more dangerous disease than generally regarded), and sleeping sickness.

(But Liberians are hyper-sensitive even to discussion of the facts, and easily offended. Improvements can be made and experts knowing it have to "talk turkey" to get action from those resigned to suffering without hope of improving conditions. If anybody knows the facts and has the medical skill to dig them out, Col. West does.)

The health mission is doing an excellent job in ridding the city of yellow fever and malaria-bearing mosquitoes. DDT is freely given, and swamps have been drained in Monrovia and Kakata. The management of the government hospital undertaken by them is criticized as poor, but they claim that lack of doctors is the reason.

REACTION BY LIBERIANS

Missions are welcome to the country, but some, and regrettably Negro members of the missions, more or less, carry an air of superiority over the common people, and for that reason receive undue criticisms.

This has been made known to some of them and there is a marked improvement.

Strike Grips Nigeria

Chicago Illinois
By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)
Chicago Defender

The greatest mass strike ever witnessed in Africa continues to paralyze the entire transport and communication system of Nigeria.

The strike, now entering its third week, involves over 150,000 natives who are employed in various departments of the Nigerian government.

The leadership of the strike conducted by the Nigeria Trade Union Congress, under the presidency of O. Imoudo, recently released from four years' imprisonment under the war-time defense regulation, which empowered the governor to jail any nationalist leaders considered dangerous. 7-14-45

Government Threats

Latest information cabled your correspondent from strike headquarters at Lagos says that unable to break the strike, Gov. Sir Arthur Richards, formerly ruler of Jamaica during labor disturbances on that island in 1938, has made six gestures since the strike started.

Firstly, Richards threatened not to pay strikers their June salaries and also threatened to forfeit all pensions, gratuities and contracts granted native government employes.

Secondly, the governor ordered the arrest and later discharge of four strike leaders when the government prosecutor was unable to produce evidence proving illegal action.

Workers Hold Out

Thirdly, Governor Richards promised that leaders would not be victimized if strikers would resume work immediately as the lack of transportation, postal and telegraph service was disorganizing the country's administration.

When the workers refused to resume work before the 60-cent per day minimum wage demand was granted, the governor publicly accused the strikers of sabotage on railway and communication systems, leading to the derailment of a train at Oshodi station, and the cutting of telephone lines between Lagos governmental headquarters and the town of Minna.

Unable to intimidate the strikers, the governor ordered the arrest of 10 supposed leaders at night Sunday on the charge of illegal strike; subsequently, a ...on against one arrested man was withdrawn but others will face court trial.

Finally, the governor ordered re-introduction of war-time defense regulations which were rescinded after the end of the European war last May.

Dictatorial Powers

Under the regulations, constitutional government was superseded by dictatorial powers, enabling the governor or criticising action by authorities which in the opinion of the governor would encourage discontent against the government, or injurious to tranquility in any section of Nigeria or encourage discontent in any section of the community or likely to encourage feelings of ill will towards those in authority.

Any newspaper, which in the governor's personal opinion, is guilty of any of the above offenses will be considered conclusive evidence and it will be the duty of the local magistrates to impose upon newspaper editors either 500 pounds fine or send the editor to jail for two years—or both.

Since the institution of press censorship the government is issuing daily bulletins edited by a public relations officer, presenting only an official point of view. As protest against muzzling the freedom of expression, the West African Pilot and Daily Comet, two leading nationalist newspapers, appear with editorial pages blank, as indication that freedom of the press should be restored immediately in order that the general public in Nigeria and abroad can know what is really happening.

Hold Mass Rally

At a great mass rally held in Lagos Saturday, thousands of workers swore oath to Mother Africa, according to ancient tribal custom, not to resume work unless the following five demands were granted: Firstly, government should pay strikers in full during the period of the strike; secondly, government should guarantee strikers their pensions, gratutities, and contractual rights; thirdly, government should assure non-victimization of strikers; fourthly, government should release arrested leaders, and fifthly, government should grant strikers original shortages.

According to the latest cable reports the situation remains serious. All troops, police, and military forces are mobilized to maintain law and order should rioting break out.

GE ERAL STRIKE CALLED BY NIGERIA LABOR
By George Padmore Chicago Defender
7-14-45
Chic., Ill.

LONDON.- Since last Thursday, a general strike has been sweeping throughout Nigeria, Britain's largest West African colony. The latest report reaching London confirmed the rumor of the complete interruption of railway, motor transport and dock services. The strike started among Africans employed on government railways and engineering workshops, later spreading to embrace all other government employes.

ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Members of the following unions are participating in the strike: African Civil Servants and Technical Workers, African Post and Telegraph Workshop, Nigerian Marine African Workers, Union Public Works Workers, Largest Town Council Workers, Nigeria Union of Nurses African Locomotive Drivers, Public Works Sawmill Workers, Post and Telegraph African Inspectors, Railway Topographical Union and Railway Station Staff Union.

All workers on active strike are employed in various departments of the British government but all other unions covering workers employed in private enterprise have declared sympathetic support by refusing to serve as strike breakers.

After the acting governor of Nigeria refused to agree to demands of the United Front Committee for a 50 per cent increase in existing African wages to meet the increased cost of living allowance for regular and skilled African wage earners as well as a 50-cent minimum daily wage for irregular and unskilled African workers employed on government-controlled railways. Trade Union Congress leaders summoned all railway workers out on strike.

Within 24 hours after the railway workers walked out, the other unions laid down their tools and within three days, the entire country was involved in the greatest general strike Africa has ever witnessed. Despite rigid censorship operating from Lagos, capitol of Nigeria, it is understood that the strike now involves more than 100,000 workers.

Alarmed by the militancy of the workers, the government appealed to the men to return to their jobs, promising settlement, but the workers refused until their demands are granted. T. A. Bankole, president of the All-Nigerian Trade Union Congress, who represented his nation at the World Trade Union Conference in London last February, has been deposed because he appealed to them to call off the strike following the governor's exhortations. Bankole has been replaced by A. O. Imoude, president of the Railway Workers Union.

Imoude was only recently released from a concentration camp where he was held like Wallace Johnson, labor leader of Sierra Leone—in protective custody under wartime defense regulations. Following his release, Imoude returned to Logas on June 2, riding a white horse like Marshal Zhukov.

The freed leader was received like a conquering hero by thousands of workers as he rode through the crowded streets of Lagos to Glover Memorial Hall where labor leaders, nationalist politicians and distinguished citizens welcomed him at a great civic banquet. Again, like Zhukox, Imoude has been elected by Nigerian workers as their commander-in-chief.

Labor Trouble Stirs Africa

8-4-45
Chicago Defender

The two-month-old strike in Nigeria, where 100,000 natives have refused to work for 18 cents a day, has taken on larger proportions as the life of Nnamdi Azikiwe, supporter of the strike, has been threatened. N.Y.

Azikiwe's two papers have been suspended for editorials that criticized labor leaders who refused the minimum of 50 cents a day requested by the laborers. African organizations in London have warned the Governor of Nigeria not to harm Azikiwe. The NAACP, the American Negro press and labor organizations are giving full weight to supporting Azikiwe in his position. 8-4-45

Nigerian Workers Call Off Strike

Philadelphia, Penn.
Tribune
(By The Associated Negro Press)

WASHINGTON— Word received here is to the effect that the strike of native African workers on railroad and transportation facilities in Nigeria, West Coast Africa, an English colony, has been called off.

It is not clear whether the demands of the strikers for increased pay for both skilled and unskilled workers has been met. Neither has it been learned authentically whether the two African owned and edited daily newspapers, the West African Pilot and the Comet, have been permitted to resume publication. 8-18-45

They have been suspended and it had been reported that Nnamdi Azikwe, their editor, had been threatened with deportation. It has been learned that Azikiwe was not placed under arrest.

150,000 Idle In Nigeria

African Editor Fears Exile; Supports Natives In Strike

Pittsburgh Courier — Pgh., Pennsylvania

7-21-45

By GEORGE PADMORE, Courier London Correspondent

LONDON—(By Cable)—The four-week-old strike in Nigeria, involving 150,000 Africans employed by the Nigerian Government and tying up the entire transportation and communications system, took on a new angle early this week when Nnamdu Azikewi, editor of the West African Pilot and Daily Comet, cabled that "My life is in danger."

It was reported that both papers have been suppressed by orders of Governor Richards on the grounds that the editor is supporting the strikers through his publications. In his cable to Londoners, the editor said:

ASKS PROTECTION

"I have reason to believe that my life is in danger in view of the fact that all local high officials wrongly suspect me unfairly to be at the bottom of the present general strike because I am a journalist with strong views and chairman of one weekly and five daily newspapers. These officials are allowing their prejudices and heresay stories to influence their attitude. It is obvious that I cannot rely on official protection.

"Could you do anything to preserve my life and business? I would have preferred being charged and tried in open court for any offense and be given opportunity to defend myself rather than be made the subject of a whispering campaign among some members of the European community and official higher-ups to whom we looked up to for protection of life and property.

MAY BE BANISHED

"Latest rumor is that I may be banished from Nigeria for supporting strikers who are demanding a sixty-cent daily wage. Should I be banished, such might create serious repercussions which neither myself nor any responsible Nigerian would cherish.

"Please treat this appeal as urgent and appeal to American Negroes and the progressive public opinion on my behalf and the workers' cause."

On receipt of the editor's cable, African organizations here called an emergency executive meeting and issued a statement warning Governor Richards and colonial office officials to keep "hands off Azikewi."

African organizations in Great Britain dispatched cables to the Big Three leaders, informing them of the "Colonial Fascism" now running rampant in Nigeria. The organizations also decided to send urgent appeals to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, African Students' Association, Council on African Affairs, Brotherhood of Pullman Porters, Congressmen Powell and Dawson, the National Urban League for democracy and fair play, for it is evident from the ent on in Washington before ly passed that it is the in- his agency.

London Students Back Striking African Workers

Chicago Defender

By GEORGE PADMORE

(Defender London Correspondent)

7-28-45

LONDON.—A magnificent demonstration of racial and working class solidarity occurred here this week when over 2,000 Africans and other colonial seamen, war plant workers and students held a mass rally in support of Nigerian strikers.

Sixty telegrams appealing to American, West Indian, Mexican and other world trade union organizations to aid the Nigerians was dispatched by the Pan-African Federation central headquarters in Britain.

7-21-45

Representatives from Africa, India, the West Indies, also the ex-British Council on Civil Liberties addressed the meeting, explaining the significance of the first general strike in West Africa, and the need for all freedom-loving peoples throughout the world to help Africans to secure a decent wage.

A strong resolution was adopted to inform the British government that the meeting condemned the uncompromising attitude of the Nigerian government in connection with the events leading to the outbreak of the strike and the consequence of the strike.

"First, refusal on the part of the Nigerian government to arrive at a reasonable compromise with or concede to the legitimate demands of technical workers for an increased cost of living allowance, also the moderate demand of a minimum wage of 60 cents daily despite the phenomenal rise in the cost of living resulting from wartime shortages, disregarding the fact that Africans have made enormous contributions in men and materials towards the war effort.

"Secondly, the meeting condemned the Fascistic methods adopted by the Nigerian government in stifling public opinion by suppressing the West African Pilot, and Daily Comet and the alleged threatening of the editor, Nnamdi Azikewi, with deportation from Nigeria because Azikewi supported the strikers."

The resolution calls upon Colonial Secretary Stanley and the Nigerian Governor Richards to abandon the use of military force and the withdrawal of defense regulations to intimidate the strikers and citizens.

Finally, the meeting asked that the demands of the strikers be granted, and that any acts victimizing strikers and the exercise of their constitutional rights be suspended.

7-21-45

A similar meeting was held in Manchester under the auspices of the Pan-African Federation at which over $500 was collected for strike relief. Similar meetings and demonstraions are planned at Liverpool and other cities by the federation.

150,000 Out In African Strike

Chicago Defender

7-28-45

By GEORGE PADMORE

(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—The issues in the general strike being staged in Nigeria, West Africa's largest colony, were forcibly brought to the British public here in a mass meeting held at Conway Hall last Sunday.

The demonstration was sponsored by the Executive committee of the West African Students Union in Great Britain and Ireland.

In a statement to the London press issued from W.A.S.U. headquarters, it was stated that "the general strike of workers in the technical branch of the civil service in Nigeria, which started more than a fortnight ago, continues to spread and there are no signs of an early settlement."

150,000 Strikers

Explaining the background of the trouble, the communique disclosed the fact that "the strike was called by the African Civil Servants Technical Workers Union, including the railways, after the Government of Nigeria had refused to satisfy the moderate demands for improved living conditions, which had been the subject of protracted and patient negotiations between the unions and the Government since 1941."

It is revealed there are 17 unions with a total membership of over 150,000 workers out on strike. These unions constitute only a part of the Nigeria Trade Union Congress which has more than 80 affiliated unions.

Deny Editor's Arrest

In response to a cablegram of protest addressed to Oliver Stanley of the Colonial Office in London, the British Information Service in New York City on July 18 informed the NAACP that Nnamdi Azikiwe, prominent Nigerian editor, had not been arrested in connection with the strike of Nigerian workers seeking a wage of 60 cents a day.

Azikiwe, editor of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, who has become known as the chain newspaper lord of West Africa, was said to have been threatened by British authorities because he was suspected of advising the strikers and encouraging them in their activity. Azikiwe was educated in the United States, and is a graduate of Lincoln university, Pa. His newspapers, especially the Pilot, have been outspoken in their demands for better treatment for West African natives.

* * *

Causes of Strike

To enable the reader to get as clear a picture of the circumstances leading up to the strike, I shall briefly summarize the background of the present situation. "Since 1941, the cost of living in Nigeria has risen by over 200 per centum, as a direct consequence of the war The Government acknowledges this fact, and has granted several kinds of allowances which effectually benefited rather a few European officials than the Africans. Examples of these allowances are the separation allowance, the cost of living allowance, and the local allowance. The African workers, especially those in the non-clerical services, who have been seriously hit by the rise in prices, received little increase in wage," declares the W.A.S.U. statement.

It is further revealed that the workers warned the Government that they would take direct action if their grievances were not redressed.

7-28-45

At a mass meeting held on Saturday, May 19, 1945, at the Glover Memorial Hall, Lagos, a resolution was passed unanimously by the Unions declaring, among other things:

(1) "That we strongly deplore the callous attitude of Government to the sufferings of the masses of African workers, mostly men with large families, as set out in a previous memorandum issued by the African Civil Servants Technical Workers Union.

(2) "And further than failing a grant in full with effect from the 1st April, 1944, of the extremely modest demand contained in the letter (sent to the Governor on March 22, 1945) to wit: Labor: Minimum daily wage to be 2|-6d (60 cents) per day. Subordinate grades between labor and standard scales —50 per cent increase on existing cost of living allowance; within one calendar month hence—not later than Thursday, June 21, 1945, the workers of Nigeria shall proceed to seek their own remedy, with due regard to law and order on the one hand, and starvation on the other."

Governor's Reply

In reply to the workers' demand for a minimum of 2|-6d (60 cents) per day wage for all ordinary laborers, the Nigerian Government wrote on August 31, 1945 that: "A general review of emoluments and other conditions of service of all Government servants, will, it is proposed, be undertaken as soon as possible after the war. "In another letter dated June 11, 1945, the Government wrote to the Union officials that: "An increase in money wages will not secure any betterment in the conditions of living unless plentiful supplies of foods and goods are available . . . agricultural production cannot be expected to show immediate improvement and existing conditions are likely to continue for some time."

This reply, naturally, did not satisfy the members of the non-clerical branch of the government service owing to the indefiniteness of the time at which the points raised on their behalf are likely to be considered.

"It is clear from this summary that the workers of Nigeria have exercised all patience and exhausted all constitutional means to come to a reasonable settlement," observes the West African Students Union, "but the Government was not willing to cooperate."

Now that trouble has started, "it could be said with fairness that the Government is directly responsible for the present unfortunate situation, which is already beginning to intensify the sufferings of millions of poor families throughout the country."

7-28-45

Nigeria, it is pointed out, has a population of 22 million Africans. It is the largest British dependency on the Continent of Africa. Recently the Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, who was ruler of Jamaica during the labor disturbances in that island, announced a new Constitution for Nigeria which has been rejected by people. Faced with a political crisis, Governor Richards came to London to consult with high-ranking officials at the Colonial Office. While he was in this country holding conferences with the Secretary of State for Colonies the strike broke out adding industrial difficulties to the existing political problems facing the country.

Nigerian Papers Permitted To Resume; Workers Make Demands

Atlanta Daily World
9-28-45

Agreement For Wage Payments During June Reached After Several Conferences

LAGOS, Nigeria — (ANP) — The two African papers, the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet of this city, which were ordered to suspend publication July 8 and which were not permitted to resume until 37 days later, have continued without interruption since. The workers who defied the government and went on strike from their dutie on the railroads and other governmental activities have gone back to work and met recently with officials in an effort to correct some of the situations which constituted their grievances.

Representing the combined unions were: F. O. Coker, president; J. Marcus Osindere, secretary; S. A. Loukoya, E. Akinand Oyetoro, M. K. Anthony, E. O Smith, T. D. Udoh and L. M. Emejulu. Mustered on the government's side were: G. Beresfes Stooke, chief secretary to the government; J. A. Gundry, postmaster-general; Capt. J. H. Hurley, deputy commissioner of labor; Miss Campbell, Messrs. Reeves (railway) Butler (marine) and officials from other governmental departments.

9-24-45

AGREEMENT REACHED

Agreement was reached that the strikers would be paid full wages for 21 days in June. No agreement was reached on the demand for payment for the full period of the strike. A compromise is being arranged regarding the demand that the strikers should have full pay for August. The government said that investigations were being made and it was impossible to agree at this time that leaders of the strike would not face prosecution. The government said that fears that trade unionism was to be banished from the colony for the future, were unfounded. Much therefore remains to be settled. In the meantime the workers are back on their jobs except complaint in arising that some of the higher paid workers have found only laborer's jobs awaiting them rather than the skilled posts they formerly occupied.

Benjamin Azikiwe, managing director of the West African Pilot and director of the Comet, whose editor, Duse Mehamed, died shortly before the strike, said editorially:

DYNAMIC RESURRECTION

"Just as a landmark was reached in the history of West African journalism, when on Sunday, July 8, this newspaper was banned and cast into an enforced hibernation, so also has history been made this day, when we see the light of day once more, leap into and bask in the sunshine of liberation.

"We resurrect more dynamic than ever. We open a new era for our country. We have blazened the trail for generations to come, and we have, as it were, lighted the torch of truth to guide the hallowed foot of our children to follow. Yes, we have paid the penalty for true leadership and have resurrected as a living dynamic force to be reckoned with in the evolution, political or otherwise, of this blessed country of ours. We shall not flinch. We shall defend our rights and the rights of our people no matter what may come."

Negro Press Requests Fuller Details Re Nigerian Strike & Ban On The Pilot

West African Pilot

UK & US Varied Over Atlantic Charter

8-29-45

CHICAGO.— Mr Claude A. Barnett, Director of the Associated Negro Press of America, has cabled seeking for fuller details regarding labour disturbances in Nigeria, the suspension of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, and the reported threats against the safety of Mr Nnamdi Azikiwe.

The Associated Negro Press of America is a newspaper syndicate which furnishes news, feature articles etc. to 120 newspapers published by Negroes in the United States, Canada, West Indies, and Latin-America.

It maintains a large staff of newspaper men and women throughout the world, wherever Negroes live, and it was responsible in a way for getting the late President F. D. Roosevelt to announce that the Atlantic Charter was applicable to all the corners of the earth.

After Mr Winston Churchill had limited the applicability of the Atlantic Charter to the occupied countries, when he was asked to explain whether it applied to British West Africa, this reply was regarded as unsatisfactory and it was communicated to the ANP by its Lagos correspondent.

At an interview which was held in the White House, the late President Roosevelt assured the ANP that the interpretation of Mr Churchill was at variance with his and so far as the Government of the United States was concerned. the Atlantic Charter was applicable to all the peoples and all the countries and oceans of the earth.

The interest of the ANP in the General Strike in Nigeria, the ban on Nigeria's two leading daily newspapers and the safety of the person of a Nigerian newspaper executive, shows that no particular country can continue to live in splendid isolation arrogating to itself the right to do as it pleases in its territory.

8-29-45

The American, West Indian, Canadian and Latin-American Negroes are interested in the fate of the Nigerian wage-earner because they too are wage-earners and have shed their blood in order to safeguard economic freedom to humanity everywhere on earth.

They are curious to learn of the fate of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet because some of them had died in order to preserve the freedom of the press all over the world.

They are worried whether the life of this African newspaper executive is safe, because some of them have been maimed, some killed, some taken prisoners of war, some lost at sea or mangled during an explosion in mid-air, in order to guarantee to humanity everywhere on earth freedom from fear of living in the shadow of Gestapo, be it Nazi or otherwise.

It is therefore significant that the ANP should cable to British West Africa in order to obtain accurate information of what is happening in Nigeria whose sons had been the comrades in arms of Americans, Canadians, West Indians, and Latin-Americans in East Africa, North Africa, the Near East, the Mediterranean, the Far East and in every theatre of war in Europe and the Pacific.

8-29-45

EDITOR'S NOTE: The correct information and precise details of the news required by the ANP have been furnished to Mr Barnett's international news organisation.

This cablegram of the ANP nails the coffin of isolationism not only in colonial administration but also in the quest for social justice among human beings, irrespective of race, colour, or creed anywhere on earth.

Any publicity given by ANP to Nigeria can have nothing but salutary effect so far as the peoples of Great Britian and of Nigeria are concerned.

1a-1945

Nigeria

Government Hires 'Scabs'

Nigerian General Strike Heads Into Sixth Week

Pittsburgh Courier

By GEORGE PADMORE, Courier London Sorrespondent

LONDON—Despite the ban on nationalist newspapers, the operation of defense regulations curtailing civil liberties and the intimidation and mass arrest of labor leaders in Nigeria, the general strike continues into the sixth week. In order to maintain essential services, the government has organized "blacklegs" under military protection and escort to and from work. According to official information, 500 "blacklegs" are now employed by the railway department, 200 by the Lagos town council and 200 by the public works department. The strike now embraces of 200,000 natives.

FACES FAMINE

Faced with famine the governor of Nigeria has appealed to the governor of Gold Coast for emergency food supplies. In response the Gold Coast Government has dispatched a shipment of Gari flour, an essential African food, which the government officials distribute among the natives at controlled prices.

In defending the action of Governor Richards in refusing to grant the strikers a minimum wage of sixty cents daily, the London Colonial Office has issued a communique stating that the Secretary of State for Colonies is "satisfied that measures taken by the Nigerian Government to combat the rise in the cost of living are the best possible under the circumstances and that any increase in the cost of living allowance would not only operate to the detriment of the wage earners themselves but would result in the deterioration of the general economic situation."

APPEAL TO CIO

While the Government is trying to break the strike, a committee of Africans and people of African descent here is organizing meetings and collecting funds to relieve the wives and children of the strikers. Appeals asking aid for the strikers has also been sent to the CIO and to Afro-American labor organizations.

Latest unconfirmed report circulating in London says that Nnamdi Azikiwe has been arrested and deported from Lagos.

As soon as the election results were announced last Thursday, a delegation of colored colonial representatives planned to interview the new Colonial secretary, asking settlement of the present dispute by granting the strikers their demands.

By A. M. WENDELL MALLET

World Fronts

N.Y. Amsterdam News

According to an informed British Government source there are 30,527 Nigerian workers on strike since June 21. They are railway, post and telegraph, marine, public department and Lagos Town Council workers. The reports from both sides are, as should be expected, conflicting and confusing But the truth is, the strike is on and the governor, Sir Arthur Richards, who was more of a stormy petrel as governor of Jamaica than a constructive administrator, is the man behind the British gun in the Nigerian Protectorate.



Mr. Malliet

The Colonial Office at Downing Street has admitted that "on May 19, the African Civil Servants Technical Workers Union asked the Nigerian Government for a 50% increase in the cost of living allowance awarded in 1942, and for an increase in the basic wage rate from two shillings to half a crown daily." (In passing we should explain that two shillings are the equivalent of forty-eight cents, and a half crown the equivalent of sixty cents.)

In other words, the workers went on strike demanding 12c a day increase to meet the high cost of living. Two newspapers, The West African Pilot, and The Daily Comet, published by the people, were suppressed because they published news "calculated to discredit the union leaders at a time when they were making every effort to pursuade the strikers to return to work. After a full inquiry in which the parties concerned were given a chance to state their case, the officer administrating the government prohibited the publication of these two papers."

Questions Are Raised

Of course, the fact that the governor acted as a friend of the union leaders raises some important questions regarding the problems of employer and employee, even though the employer is the government. Are we to understand that the union leaders are representing the government point of view and the workers are at variance with their leaders? Or is it that Mr. Bankole, the deposed leader of the Nigerian workers, has gone over to the government, and that the new leader, Mr. Imodu, is being persecuted by Governor Richards.

It is most unfortunate that such a situation should have been allowed to develop in Nigeria or in any other British colony or protectorate at this or any other time. The over-all colonial reforms of the former Secretary of State for the Colonies, Col. Oliver Stanley, were indications of what Britain had planned for the colonial empire. Somewhere along the road the wrong man was brought into the picture. The Nigerian crisis has been in process of development for several years, and in exploding as it did on the eve of the British elections which swept the Labor Party into power, Mr. Attlee, the new Prime Minister, and George Hall, the new Colonial Secretary, have been given an unusual opportunity to make a name for themselves in handling the colonial problems of the empire.

Nigeria Needs Commission

A Royal Commission composed of Laborites should be despatched to Nigeria immediately, and its terms of reference should be as broad as it is humanly possible to make them The purpose, plan and viewpoint of such a commission should be to find ways and means of solving the age-old difficulties between Nigeria and Great Britain, and at the same time afford the Nigerians every opportunity to move steadily forward on the road to progress and prosperity.

It is known that the Minerals Ordinance, 1945, the Proposals for the Revision of the Constitution of Nigeria, the recent legislation forbidding Nigerian rulers from participating in the nationalist movement under pain of removal, and a series of local and labor problems have angered the Nigerian people for many years. These difficulties were and are known to the authorities at Downing Street. The unfortunate result is their responsibility. There should and must be an early end to this kind of irresponsible and indifferent government of colonies.

The time is now for Great Britain to choose between progress and reform in the colonial empire or face similar situations as those she has had to face in Ireland and India. People can no longer be ruled and exploited against their will. The days of empires are numbered.

AFRICA SPEAKS

Nigerian Workers Swear Never to Surrender Their Demands From Government

Pittsburgh Courier

By Prince A. A. Nwafor Orizu

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

WITHOUT any comment, I am reproducing the general strike situation in Nigeria in this column for the interested readers. The extract is from the London Tribune, July 13. It runs as follows: "Last Saturday, thousands of angry Nigerian strikers, at a mass rally at Lagos, swore 'by Mother Africa and the departed spirits of our ancestors that we shall never surrender until the Government grants us our legitimate demands.' During the past three weeks over 150,000 Nigerian employes went on strike for a minimum of 2s. 6d. (roughly fifty cents) a day to meet the rise in the cost of living.



Prince Nwafor Orizu

"A recent appeal by the African Civil Servants Technical Workers Union, addressed to the Governor, Arthur Richards, pointed out that, before the war workers lived in families of three or four with children in rooms, some of which measured 10 ft. by 10 ft. This was a direct result of the miserable wages paid by the Government. Today, the situation is aggravated by an abnormal rise in rents. Prices of foodstuffs and imported goods have soared, stocks are scarce, the health of the community is becoming impaired, victims of "TB" are increasing from day to day. The appeal ended: 'Have we fought this war in order to be exterminated by starvation? We appeal to British sense of justice for timely redress.'

"THE GOVERNOR ignored the workers' appeal, and goaded into desperation, the leaders of the Trade Union Congress issued a strike call to all Government employes. The response was immediate. Within three days thousands of workers, organized into the following unions, were out: The Railway and Engineering Workshops, African Civil Servants Technical Workers, African Land and Survey Technical Workers, Nigerian Marine African Workers, Public Works Union, African Locomotive Drivers, Government Sawmill Workers, Nigeria Union of Nurses, African Inspectors' Posts and Telegraph, African Railway Topographical Workers, African Railway Station Masters.

"Other non-Government workers later joined in sympathy with the Government employes.

"Alarmed by these developments, certain of the African leaders attempted to call off the strike, but they were immediately repudiated by the workers and expelled from office. Among them was T. A. Bankole, the president of the Nigeria TUC, who represented the Nigerian labor movement at the World Trade Union Conference in London last February. He has been replaced by A. O. Imoudu, a former president of the Railway Workers Union, who like Wallace Johnson, of Sierra Leone, was held in detention for four years under the local Defense Regulations.

* * *

"HE WAS ONLY released from exile on June 2, when he returned to Lagos riding on a white horse and was publicly acclaimed by thousands of workers.

"When the strike started, the Governor was in London holding consultations with officials at the Colonial Office. He immediately flew back to West Africa to take charge of the situation.

"Sir Arthur Richards has the reputation of being a strong-handed pro-Consul, and was responsible for restoring 'law and order' in Jamaica during the labor riots in that island in 1938.

"His first move was to issue a statement threatening to withhold the strikers' wages for June, and to cancel the pensions and gratuities of those Civil Servants entitled to such benefits.

"WHEN THIS FAILED to intimidate the men, he ordered the arrest of four workers' leaders, charging them with participating in an illegal strike. They were later discharged. Then he tried appeasement, promising not to victimize the leaders if they appealed to the strikers to return to work. But the men refused. Then the Governor accused the workers of sabotage on the transport and communications system leading to the derailment of a train at a place called Oshodi and of cutting telephone lines connecting the capital with parts of the interior of the country.

"Arising out of this charge, ten strike leaders have been arrested; one was subsequently released, and the others will stand trial.

* * *

"THE GOVERNOR has imposed a rigid press censorship and reintroduced the wartime Defense Regulations which were rescinded after the end of the European War last May. Under these regulations constitutional government has been suspended and the Governor has assumed dictatorial powers. He now has the right to suppress any newspaper publishing news or criticisms which, in his opinion, would encourage discontent, ill-feeling, or disturb the tranquility of any section of Nigeria. Editors guilty of any of these offenses will be fined 500 pounds or imprisonment for two years or both.

"As a protest against this suppression of free opinion, the West African Pilot and Daily Comet, two of the leading Nigerian dailies, appeared with their editorial pages blank. Now both these papers have been suppressed for criticising certain union leaders who are advocating an approach to the Governor. The Government, on the other hand, issued a daily bulletin edited by the Public Relatins Office, presenting the official piont of view.

"AT THE MASS RALLY last

Saturday, when the strikers swore their tribal oath not to resume work, they also reasserted their demands.

"First, they want the Government to pay them in full for the time they have been on strike. Second, the pensions and gratuities of African Civil Servants must be guaranteed. Third, the Government must give an assurance not to victimize the men, especially their leaders. Fourth, all arrested leaders must be released, and, last, but not least, the original demand for a 2s. 6d. wage increase must be granted.

"According to the latest information reaching London, the strike is spreading to workers in private European enterprises."

U.S. Labor Hits Suppression Of African Papers

Strikers Go Back To Jobs After Long Walkout For Pay Hike

LONDON. — More than 200,000 Nigerian transport and communications workers striking for a half-crown (50 cents) daily minimum wage for unskilled labor went back to work on Monday, according to the official British Reuters news agency. 8-11-45

The walkout, which has tied up Nigerian travel and communications for several weeks, was participated in by technical employes of the railways, postoffice, town council and public works departments and drew the sympathy of liberal labor groups all over the world.

In an unprecedented move last week, R. J. Thomas, international president of the CIO United Automobile Workers, forwarded cables to both the British Colonial Office and Sir Arthur Frederick Richards, governor of Nigeria, protesting the threat to exile Nnamdu Azikewi, American-schooled African journalist, and suppress his publications because of editorial support given to the 200,000 strikers.

Former U. S. Student

A graduate of Lincoln (Pa.) university, Azikewi established a chain of newspapers upon returning to his native Africa through whch he has demanded native participation in the colony's government and advocated trade unionism among the native laborers. Governor Richards used emergency wartime power granted him to suppress publication of two of the African newspapers.

The Nigerian strikers, faced with famine as the walkout continued, nevertheless held out for a wage to meet the sharp increases in cost of living. The Reuters dispatch did not state whether the demands had been met by the government.

Nigerian strikers stand pat: 150,000 hold out for 50c a day

LAGOS, Nigeria (Delayed)—Thousands of Nigerian strikers gathered at a mass meeting here July 13, and swore "by mother Africa and the departed spirits of (their) ancestors that (they would) never surrender until the Government grants (their) legitimate demands," George Padmore, Negro writer, disclosed recently in the London Tribune. 8-13-45

Over 150,000 native employees have been on strike here since late June for a minimum wage increase of 2s. 6d (about 50c) per day to meet the rise in the cost of living.

The African Civil Servants Technical Workers' Union appealed to Gov. Arthur Richards, protesting the "miserable wages" and poor living conditions, which have been aggravated by an abnormal rise in rents and foodstuffs. Said the appeal, "Have we fought this war in order to be exterminated by starvation? We appeal to British sense of justice for timely redress."

The government reportedly ignored the workers' appeal, and the leaders of the Trade Union Congress forthwith issued a strike call to all government employees. Within three days, thousands of workers from various unions were participating in the strike. Other non-government workers later joined them in sympathy.

Alarmed by developments, some of the African leaders attempted to call off the strike, Padmore said, but they were repudiated by the workers and expelled from office. Among them was T. A. Bankole, Nigeria TUC president and representative to the World Trade Union Conference in London last February, who was replaced by A. O. Imoudo, former president of the Railway Workers' Union, who once spent four years in detention under local Defense Regulations. 8-13-45

When the strike started, the governor was in London, but he flew back to West Africa to take charge of the situation. Sir Richards first issued a statement threatening to withhold the strikers' wages for June, and to cancel pensions and gratuities if civil servants entitled to such benefits. This failing, he ordered the arrest of four of the leaders, charging them with participating in an illegal strike. They were later discharged.

Then the governor, who was responsible for restoring "law and order" in Jamaica during the 1938 labor riots there, promised not to penalize the leaders if they would appeal to the strikers to return to work. The men refused. He then accused the strikers of sabotage on the transport and communications systems leading to the derailment of a train at Oshodi and of cutting telephone lines connecting the capital with the interior. 8-13-45

On this last charge, 10 strike leaders were arrested. One was later released, with the others ordered to stand trial.

A rigid press censorship has been imposed and the wartime Defense Regulations, rescinded after V-E day, have been reintroduced. Under these regulations, constitutional government has been suspended, giving dictatorial authority to the governor.

Two leading dailies, the West African Pilot and Daily Comet, appeared with their editorial pages blank in protest against censorship, and were subsequently suspended for criticizing union leaders who advocated compromise. The government now issues a daily bulletin edited by the public relations office.

At the mass rally, the strikers swore their tribal oath and reiterated their demands. First: they ask to be paid in full for the time they have been on strike; 2) a guarantee of pensions and gratuities for African civil servants; 3) government assurance of not penalizing strikers, especially the leaders; 4) all arrested leaders must be released; 5) the original demand for a wage increase must be granted. 8-13-45

Padmore added that the strike is reported to be spreading to workers in private European enterprises.

INVOLVES ONE OF RICHEST IN WORLD TRADE

NEW YORK, Sept. 1—Special)—A delegation representing more than 300,000 cocoa farmers of Nigeria and Gold Coast, British West Africa, has arrived in London for the purpose of opening discussions on problems of marketing millions of dollars in cocoa produced in the West African colonies.

The delegation is led by Mr. G. Ashe Nikei, Executive Secretary of the Gold Coast branch of the Farmers Committee of West Africa. Included among the members of the delegation is Mr. W. J. Kwesi Mould of the Gold Coast, and a member of the Executive Council, who was a visitor in the United States last year and addressed the National Negro Business League.

The sending of the delegation to London resulted from the dissatisfaction of the African cocoa producers with the proposals made early last fall by the British government for establishment of organizations in the colonies which would act as trustees for the producers, purchase the total crop, prescribe the price to be paid the farmers, and undertake the entire marketing of the crop.

The African farmers regard this proposal as being in effect a continuation of the system whereby the European export firms have in the past, through combination, controlled the buying and selling of cocoa. This system resulted in the African producer receiving one-fourth or less of the price which his cocoa brought in the world market, with the bulk of the profit going to British firms such as Cadbury Brothers.

The farmers, protesting against the government control scheme, have proposed their own alternative plan for the progressive economic development of West Africa.

1a-1945

AFRICA SPEAKS

Pittsburgh Courier

By Prince A. A. Nwafor Orizu

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

Nigeria Arrest of Azikiwe Brings to Head Differences in Nigerian Conception of British Relations

Pittsburgh, Pa. 7-28-45

THE shoes of British colonial fascism in Nigeria pinch acutely. The tightness of the squeeze has produced a social convulsion. The day of reckoning is dawning with compelling clearness. The insipid history of British imperialism is again on one of its cycles. The different conceptions of life which divide the Nigerian and the English worlds are being forced to the foreground. Thanks to the bull-headed Governer, Arthur Richards. It may be that God has designated Governor Richards to quicken the time when the British and Nigerians will answer ultimate questions about the relations between the two countries.



Prince Nwafor Orizu

Today, there is a general strike of 150,000. The workers wanted 60 cents daily wage, that is all. The British refused this. The British Government there failed to appease the "good boys" in Nigeria by the niceties of "His Majesty's Policy." Several union leaders were imprisoned. That only influflamed the situation. Governor Richards decided to take revenge on Nnamdi Azikiwe, the editor, publisher of the West African Pilot and its syndicates, and the General Secretary of the National Council of Nigeria, which has about 7 million membership.

Azikiwe cabled to the world through London saying:

"I have reason to believe that my life is in danger, in view of the fact that all local high officials wrongly suspect me to be at the bottom of present general strike because I am a journalist with strong views. It its obvious I cannot rely on official protection. I would have preferred being charged and tried in open court. I may be banished from Nigeria for supporting strikers demanding 60 cents daily wage. Should I be banished, such might create serious repercussions which, neither myself nor any responsible Nigerian cherishes. . . . Appeal to American Negroes and progressive public opinions on my behalf, and cause of the workers." 7-28-45

TO KNOW fully who Azikiwe is, what he represents in Africa, we should read Sec. VI, chapter 17-21, of "Without Bitterness." There, a brief life history, philosophy, and the influence of Azikiwe were discussed as has never been done before.

Azikiwe is not a labor leader. He is the General Secretary of the Nigerian National Council, which is the largest and all-inclusive Nigerian and Cameroons organization. He owns four daily newspapers in Nigeria. Azikiwe is a spiritual leader of West Africa—a mass magnet of Nigeria. He is the symbol of the Nigerian mind, as opposed to all the things that negate freedom and liberty in Africa. Once he said: "I am a living spirit of a[illegible] the idea of a NEW AFRICA; I am a living spirit of an ideal—the ideal of a man's humanity to man; I am a living spirit of an ideology—the ideology of the destruction of man's inhumanity to man."

To appreciate the spiritual depth of these words is understanding Nnamdi Azikiwe, whom the British Governor, Richards, has suppressed. threatening his life and jeopardizing his property.

* * *

WHY WERE all these things done when Azikiwe is neither a railway worker nor the labor leader? Why should a private citizen of Nigeria operating a private enterprise be threatened with banishment? Why will the British Government in Nigeria blame another man for a labor strike, of which he is not a part? Thoughtful Americans must understand the inside-out of the secret.

Underneath all the questions of the strike and the suppression of the press is the seething question of British-Nigerian relations, which has been taking a bad turn since the coming of Governor Richards.

The most recent issues are the so-called New Constitution for Nigeria, the Minerals Ordinance, and the bill affecting the deposition of Nigerian Rulers at the will of the dictator-governor.

* * *

THESE BILLS and ordinances made it clear that Great Britain and Nigeria have cherished different notions of their relation to one another; and we are becoming conscious that unless this question is determined, then friendly connection will soon be destroyed. To a Nigerian, land and its vegetable and mineral products come as sacred property that is inseparable from individual and collective personality. Governor Richards has erroneously introduced a bill to alienate the mineral rights of Nigeria to the British Crown. A new constitution has been imposed upon us through a dominated Legislature. Our masses are deprived of equitable wages for their labor. Our kings have no power save as prescribed by foreign dictator at Lagos. Now, the freedom of speech is impaired. The life of a leader of 7 million people is threatened. 7-28-45

Nigerians are struggling now only to impress the Nigerian conception of law and justice upon the British Government. The British Government, if tactful, should listen to our own interpretation of laws of life and society, while world opinion will judge between us in terms of all the fundamental freedoms for which the Allies said they fought Nazi Germany and Japan.

Resents Arrest Of Nigerian Trade Union Leaders And Suppression Of Newspapers In Strike Case

New York Age N. Y. C.

Arrests of ten or more Nigerian Trade Union Congress leaders, suppression of two newspapers supporting the general strike of 150,000 Nigerian workers, and the threat to banish Nnamdi Azikiwe, general secretary of the National Council of Nigeria, were strongly protested in cables to the British Colonial Office and the British Governor of Nigeria, sent Tuesday by James P. Cannon, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the United States.

N. Y.

The Socialist Workers Party acted when it received cables from London advising of the dictatorial attempts being made by the British authorities to crush the general strike, which is being waged to secure a 60 cents a day wage.

The London cable urged the Socialist Workers Party to lodge protests with the British Colonial Office and Governor Richards of Nigeria, and to arouse American labor to come to the aid of the Nigerian workers.

The 150,000 Nigerian workers on strike include all the railroad men, coal miners, civil servants and others. Their present pay averages two shillings a day, the equivalent of about 50 cents.

The "West African Pilot" and the "Daily Comet," two newspapers which supported the strike, have been suppressed, and their owner-editor, Nnamdi Asikiwe, who is also general secretary of the National Council of Nigeria, is threatened with banishment.

At least ten leaders of the Nigerian Trades Union Congress, including its president, have been already arrested. 7-28-45

There are 64 trade unions in Nigeria, combined in the Nigerian Trades Union Congress which held a convention in August, 1944. This body adopted resolutions calling for industrialization of the country and nationalization of important industries, unemployment and health insurance, and improvement of housing and educational facilities.

Inhuman exploitation is the rule in Nigerian industry. Children between nine and twelve slave in tin and coal mines 12 hours a day, carrying loads up to 65 pounds. Negro bus drivers and conductors receive less than one-third the wages paid to Europeans for similar work.

The London cables urge all American trade unions, Negro and civil liberties organizations to cable protests to Governor Richards of Nigeria and the British Colonial Office in London.

HOLD PROTEST MEETINGS

2,000 AFRICANS RALLY TO NIGERIAN STRIKERS

Pittsburgh Courier.... 7-28-45 Pa.

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON—A magnificent demonstration of racial and working class solidarity occured here last Sunday when over 2,000 Africans and other colonial seamen, war plant workers and students, held a mass rally in support of the Nigerian strikers, and collected approximately $500 to help feed the wives and children of the strikers.

Sixty telegrams appealing to American West Indians, Mexicans and world trade union organizations, to aid the Nigerians, were dispatched by the Pan-African Federation, Central Headquarters Colonial United Front in Britain.

ADOPT RESOLUTIONS

After representatives of Africa, India, the West Indies and the British Council of Civil Liberties addressed the meeting, explaining the significance of the first general strike of West Africa and the need for all freedom-loving people throughout the world to help Africans to secure decent wages, the meeting unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

To condemn the "uncompromising attitude of the Nigerian Government in connection with events leading to outbreaks and the consequent strike . . . the refusal of the Nigerian Government to arrive at a reasonable compromise with, or to concede to the legitimate demands of technical workers for an increase in the cost of living allowance and a minimum wage rate of 60 cents a day . . . the "fascistic" methods of the Nigerian Government in stifling public opinion, suppressing the West African "Pilot" and "Daily Comet" and the alleged threatening of editor Nnamdi Azikiwe with deportation from Nigeria because he supported the strikers . . . the re-imposing of defense regulations, which were repealed last May, giving the Governor dictatorial powers . . . the studied policy of discrimination pursued by the Nigerian Government as between different sections of its employees in awarding wartime relief."

A similar mass meeting was held in Manchester under the auspices of the Pan-American Federation, presided over by Doctor Milliard, president of the Federation. Addressed by Trmakonnen, Jimmie Taylor, Eacowan and Jomo Menyatta, the meeting collected over $500 toward the strike relief fund.

MARCHED THROUGH STREETS

After the meeting, Negroes marched through the streets of Manchester with signs demanding "hands off strikers," "lift ban of African press," "hands off Azikiwe, leading African anti-fascist editor." The demonstration ended with an open air rally at Platfield, the Hyde Park of Manchester.

Similar meetings and demonstrations are planned at Liverpool and other towns by the Pan-African Federation, which is now completing plans for holding a world Pan-African conference next September.

Terror in Nigeria

Pittsburgh Courier

The world was electrified last week when news leaked out that British imperialists were prepared to use the most extreme measures in putting down the strike of 150,000 Nigerian coal miners, railroad workers, civil servants and others who are trying to get a minimum wage of sixty cents a day.

Presently they are only getting fifty cents a day, a mere pittance when it is considered that prices have gone sky high for all the necessities of life in Nigeria as in other parts of the world.

The conditions under which these black workers toil are almost unbelievable, with children between nine and twelve years of age working twelve hours a day in tin and coal mines, carrying loads up to sixty-five pounds and colored bus drivers and conductors getting one-third the wages paid European workers for similar tasks.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

The workers in Nigeria are powerfully organized in sixty-four trade unions corresponding to the various industries and occupations, and those unions are gathered into the Nigeria Trade Union Congress.

This organization, at its congress in 1944, adopted resolutions demanding industrialization of the colony and nationalization of important industries.

7-28-45

The workers also asked for unemployment and health insurance, and for improvement of housing conditions and educational facilities.

The intellectual leader of this movement is undoubtedly Nnamdi Azikiwe, Lincoln University Graduate and editor of the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet.

Unable to settle the strike without bloody repression, the British are now threatening to banish this militant African leader and suppress his two papers.

All this is going on while Prime Minister Churchill is meeting with President Truman and Premier Stalin for the perpetuation of peace and the building of a better world for the oppressed of the earth.

It would seem to any reasonable person that the establishment of a better world would logically begin in the areas controlled by Britain itself.

NIGERIA STAYS IN STRIKE GRIP; LEADERS JAILED

Tieup by 100,000 Natives Enters Second Month

Chicago Daily Tribune

BY E. R. NODERER

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

[Reprinted from yesterday's late Tribune]

LONDON, July 21—The strike of 100,000 native civil servants in Nigeria entered its second month today with the government and the workers still deadlocked on the demands for increased pay and living allowances.

Chicago Sun



Arrow Points to Nigeria

Transportation and communications systems are virtually paralyzed. The workers refuse to resume their jobs despite advice of union leaders, some of whom have been ousted for advocating ending the walkout. Several of the strike leaders have been arrested, and nine are awaiting trial on charge of sabotage, according to latest reports from Lagos.

7-23-45

The unions affiliated with the Nigerian Trade Union congress are demanding a minimum wage of 50 cents a day [United States currency] compared with the present 18 cents. They also ask an adjustment in the cost of living which is said to have risen 200 per cent.

Rigid Press Censorship

The workers struck June 21 after Gov. Arthur Richards rejected their demands. Richards, who was governor of Jamaica during the labor riots there in 1938, then imposed a rigid press censorship, and reintroduced the war time defense regulations which had been rescinded at the end of the war in Europe.

Under these regulations constitutional government has been suspended, and the governor has assumed dictatorial powers. He has a right to suppress any newspaper publishing news or criticisms which he feels would encourage discontent. This includes criticism of the governor or government officials. Editors guilty of any of these offenses are liable to a $2,000 fine or two years in jail, or both.

Two leading dailies, the West African Pilot and the Daily Comet, already have been suppressed for criticizing union leaders who advocated approaching the governor to discuss ending the strike.

The government seeks to fill the news gap by issuing a daily bulletin edited by the public relations office and giving the official point of view.

Thousands Voice Protest

On July 7 thousands of angry strikers at a Lagos mass meeting vowed "by our mother Africa and the departed spirits of our ancestors" not surrender until their demands are met. In addition to increased pay and allowances, they are asking a reduction of the present inequality between English and non-English workers.

According to reports in London some nongovernmental workers have struck in sympathy with the civil servants. It is feared in London that the strike may spread but apparently Gov. Richards has been unable to make any progress in meeting the demands of the workers.

The colonial office in London admitted today there had been "some minor disturbances."

British Report Aid To Africans

Chicago Defender

By GEORGE PADMORE

(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—In keeping with repeated official pronouncements by the Secretary of State for Colonies in the last Parliament that it is the policy of the Imperial Government to speed up the economic development of Africa and the other parts of the Colonial Empire before political self-government can be conceded, the Colonial Office has issued the first detailed report on the work of the experts directing the Welfare and Development Scheme.

8-4-45

Under the original Development and Welfare Act passed in 1940 while Mr. Malcolm Macdonald was head of the Colonial Office, the sum of 50,000,000 pounds was voted to be spent on the 60,000,000 colonials over a period of 10 years. This worked out at an average of a few pence per head. Consequently, the Act was frequently criticized by those members of Parliament, mostly Labourites and Left-Wingers—who take a keen interest in the progress of colonial peoples.

And as a result, Colonel Stanley got the House of Commons to amend the 1940 Act last April, bringing the amount to be spent on colonial development and welfare up to 120,000,000 pounds over a period of 10 years. It is estimated that the present appropriation, while still insufficient, will amount to about 4 shillings per head of the colored empire population, excluding India's teeming million of nearly four hundred million.

Large Sum Spent

The report reveals that 23,571,258 pounds have already been spent Of this amount, 15,848,742 pounds were spent in 1944, compared with only 4,113,927 pounds in 1943.

Nearly every colony is already engaged in drawing up blue-prints of post-war reconstruction. All these plans are submitted to the Colonial Office, where Sir Frank Stockdale, the former Comptroller of West Indian development, gives his approval in his new capacity as Special Economic Adviser to Colonel Stanley.

Once a plan is okayed, the Colony concerned can secure sums necessary out of the 120,000,000 pounds Development Fund to finance the carrying out of the project. For example, the report under review shows that in 1944, nearly half a million pounds were spent for rebuilding and improving the Mulago hospital in Uganda, East Africa and another $350,000 pounds on the public health and medical services of that Protectorate.

Big Plans For Nigeria

Nigeria has secured 1,810,000 pounds for building roads to open up the agricultural and mineral resources of this rich country. Another sum of 1,889,000 pounds will be spent on rural water supply, while an additional amount of 602,500 will go towards urban water supply.

8-4-45

In addition to sums obtained from the Imperial Fund, Nigeria intends to spend a total of 7,000,000 pounds on road construction, half of which will be provided from local taxation by the 22 million natives.

The Nigerian Government has also approved a ten to fifteen year plan of industrial development to cost 40 million pounds. Part of the money will be borrowed in the city of London, guaranteed by the British Treasury. Apart from the plan formulated by the Development Secretary of Nigeria, few of the other colonies have industrial development plans. In Jamaica, for example, the economic report submitted by Dr. Benham, the economic adviser, offers no concrete industrialization proposals. I understand that the report has been severely criticized by the West Indian economist, Dr. W. Arthur Lewis, native of St. Lucia, and Lecturer in Economics at London School of Economics and Political Science.

On the other hand, half a million pounds has been granted to Jamaica for educational expansion and 511,600 pounds for establishing agricultural centres. Another 500,000 pounds has been granted to the Windward Islands in the West Indies for educational purposes. The general policy in official circles is not to encourage local industries which may compete with British manufacturies.

Campbell Back After Survey Of Territory

Memphis World 5-18-45

Makes Report To Agriculture Sec'y Wickard

Memphis Tenn. See 5-18

WASHINGTON, D. C. — SNS) — Thomas M. Campbell, Extension Service field agent of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who has just returned from a six-month educational survey of West Africa with an Anglo-American mission told Secretary Claude R. Wickard last week that a chain of movable schools is needed in Africa to carry education and health improvement methods to the people there.

Because of his wide experience in southern agriculture and in the operation of movable schools, having been the firstoperator of Tuskegee's school on wheels, Mr. Campbell was loaned to the General Education Board by the Department last year to join the survey mission. He and Dr. Jackson Davis, associated director of GEB, left last September for Liberia where they were joined by the third member of the mission, Miss Margaret Wrong of Britain.

COVERED INTERIOR

Traveling by plane, by rail, by boat, by auto, and on foot, the mission toured more than 10,000 miles within the interior of Liberia, Nigria, Sierra Leone, Belgian Congo, French Cameroon, and Gold Coast.

Getting close to the African people so that he could discover their needs, and find out how best they could be met. Mr. Campbell talked with the people in their village market places, and in their homes, he coddled their children on his knees, sang to the people at their meetings, and over their local radio stations, joined their tribes, wore their costumes, and studied their agricultural production methods, their health and nutritional standards. 5-18-45

Mr. Campbell told Secretary Wickard that the people of Africa could help themselves if given adequate assistance in the way of nurses, doctors, tools and agricultural technicians to guide them in modern farming practices.

He envisions scores of movable schools in Africa, staffed by trained agriculturalists, nurses, and home economists, winding their way along the narrow trials from village to village, carrying education and health improvement practices to the people. He pointed out to Secretary Wickard that Charles Trout, former county agent of Alabama, whom the Department loaned to the Liberian Government last year, is doing an excellent job of helping the people there to grow more food and also to develop their commercial crops.

Plans for establishing a chain of movable schools in Africa have been discussed also by Mr. Campbell with the Agricultural Missions of North America. The Missions, assisted by the General Education Board, may take steps to carry out the plan.

AWARDS TO BE GIVEN BY AFRICAN ACADEMY

New York Times 5-5-45

Two awards, to be given to men and women who have distinguished themselves in promoting good relations between Africa and America, have been established by the African Academy of Arts and Research, it was announced last night in Carnegie Hall at the last of two performances of the organization's second annual festival of dance and music. N.Y., N.Y.

The prizes, described by Prince A. A. Nwafor Orizu of Nigeria, author and president of the American Council on African Education, will be presented annually and will be known as the Wendell L. Willkie Memorial Award and the Felix Eboué Award, the latter in honor of the late Governor General of Equatorial Africa. A special committee to select the winners is being formed. 4-8-45

Preceding the announcement Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin of Connecticut, guest of honor and principal speaker at the celebration, paid tribute to the late Mr. Willkie.

Dr. L. D. Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, New York Public Library, praised the late Governor General as the first African leader to give refuge to Gen. Charles de Gaulle, but warned that "there can be no durable peace until the colonial question is settled and settled right."

Kingsley Ozuomba Mbadiwe, academy president, presided.

African Education Mission Member Lauded on Return

Afro-American 4-14-45
Balt., Md.

NEW YORK (ANP)—Dr. Jackson Davis and Thomas M. Campbell returned to the United States last week after a six-month stay in Africa as members of a three man mission to study mass educational plans for Britain's African colonies.

Dr. Davis, an associate director of the General Education board founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1902, was chairman of the group, which included Miss Margaret Wrong of London and Campbell, whom Dr. Jackson praised.

Campbell, attached to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, "made friends everywhere," Dr. Davis said, "African natives, missionaries, teachers, government officials all talked with him freely about their work and profited by his counsel." 4-14-45

Future Activity Predicted

Declaring that Mr. Campbell's radio address and messages were "singularly effective with native Africans," Dr. Davis said that his visit has opened the way for increasing participation of colored Americans in the task of building a Christian civilization in Africa.

At the same time, Dr. Davis pointed out that there was mutual interest on the part of both the British government and the Africans in the development and education of the colonies.

During the six-month tour of Africa, Dr. Davis and his associates visited Liberia, the Belgian Congo., the French Cameroons, Nigeria, the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone.

Liberian Health Bureau Sets Record

Va. Norfolk-Journal & Guide 1-20-45

MONROVIA—(ANP)—With clinical treatment to more than 1,000 new patients together with services to 5,464 old patients, the Liberian bureau of public health and sanitation here sends on the following report for the period Jan. 1 to Sept. 15, 1944:

More than 400 patients have been hospitalized; 285 were discharged and 39 died. Treatment to 1,006 new patients, 5,464 old patients and 8,567 dressings; 128 expectant mothers were attended in the maternity clinic; 82 births and six premature births were recorded. Still in attendance at the maternity clinic were 40 mothers. 1-20-45

An adequate drainage system for the south beach swamps is being devised and the bureau for the current year will supervise all street cleaning.

Liberian Institute Making Progress, Trustee Reports

AFRO American 4-28-45
Balt., Md.

NEW YORK (ANP) — The progressive growth and operation of the Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial School in Liberia was revealed to trustees at their annual meeting here on April 18 at Parkside Hotel, by Dr. Jackson Davis, chairman.

Dr. Davis, just back from an extensive tour of the school at Kakata, gave the board a detailed report, along with a survey of the findings of his committee which included Miss Margaret Wrong of England, and Thomas N. Campbell of Tuskegee Institute.

Facilities Increased

The school, designed to teach trades, modern living and health and academic subjects, primarily to natives in the hinterlands, has increased its facilities, has 130 boys in classes, and entrance applications several times that number.

Agriculture, important to Liberia which depends largely upon imported foodstuffs, is to be improved under plans by Charles E. Trout, former U.S. agricultural extension agent in Alabama, now on the school's staff.

Mr. Trout's services and a new building, were made possible through a grant by the division of cultural co-operation of the U.S. State Department. The Firestone Rubber Company lent workmen and technicians in constructing and supervising the building. 4-28-45

Shops of the school supplied a large amount of furniture needed for the Tubman administration and army and hospital installations which the United States brought to Liberia. R. L. Embree is principal. Liberian delegates to the San Francisco Conference were guests.

African Woman Shocks English Legal Circles

Philadelphia Tribune Pt. 1, p. 7
6-2-45

LONDON (ANP) — Legal circles were astounded here recently when a 21-year-old West African woman completed Part 1 and the finals of bar examinations in 14 months without failing in any subject.

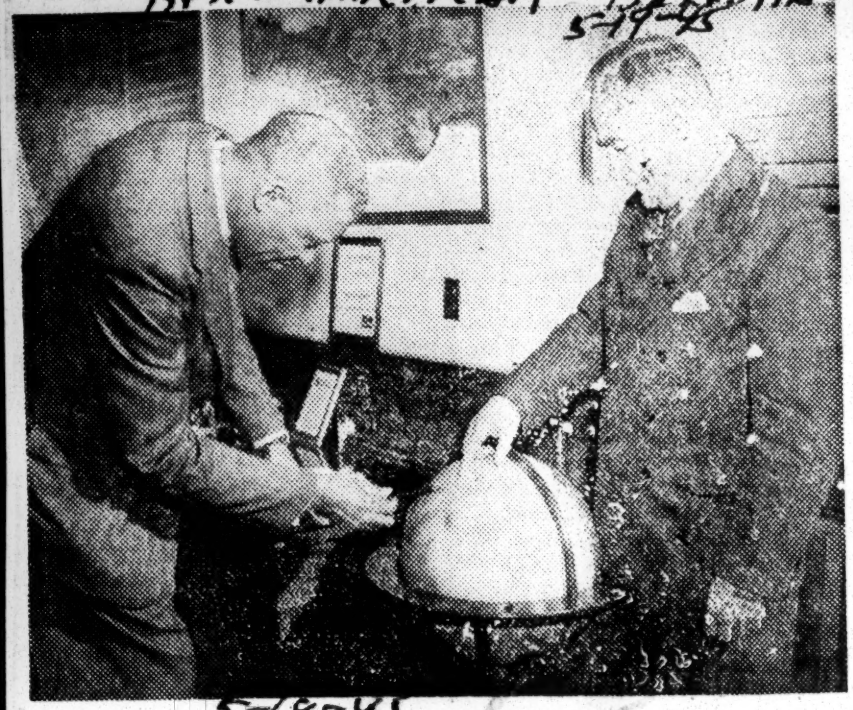
The name of the young woman is Mrs. Olabisi Alakija Awooner-Renner. She was educated at the Cheltenham Ladies College in Gloucestershire and the University of Sheffield and was admitted to the Middle Temple in October, 1943. She had her early training at St Mary's Hall, Brighton.

Mrs. Renner, the wife of the late Olayimika Alakija, a lawyer, and Mrs. Olajumoke Alakija of Lagos and Brazil.

"You are already distinguishing yourself at the bar," said the director of legal studies. 6-2-45

She will be called to the bar in November, 1946.

Proposes Movable Schools for Africa



T. M. Campbell, extension service field agent, points out on a globe to Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard some of the regions of West Africa that could be served by movable schools.

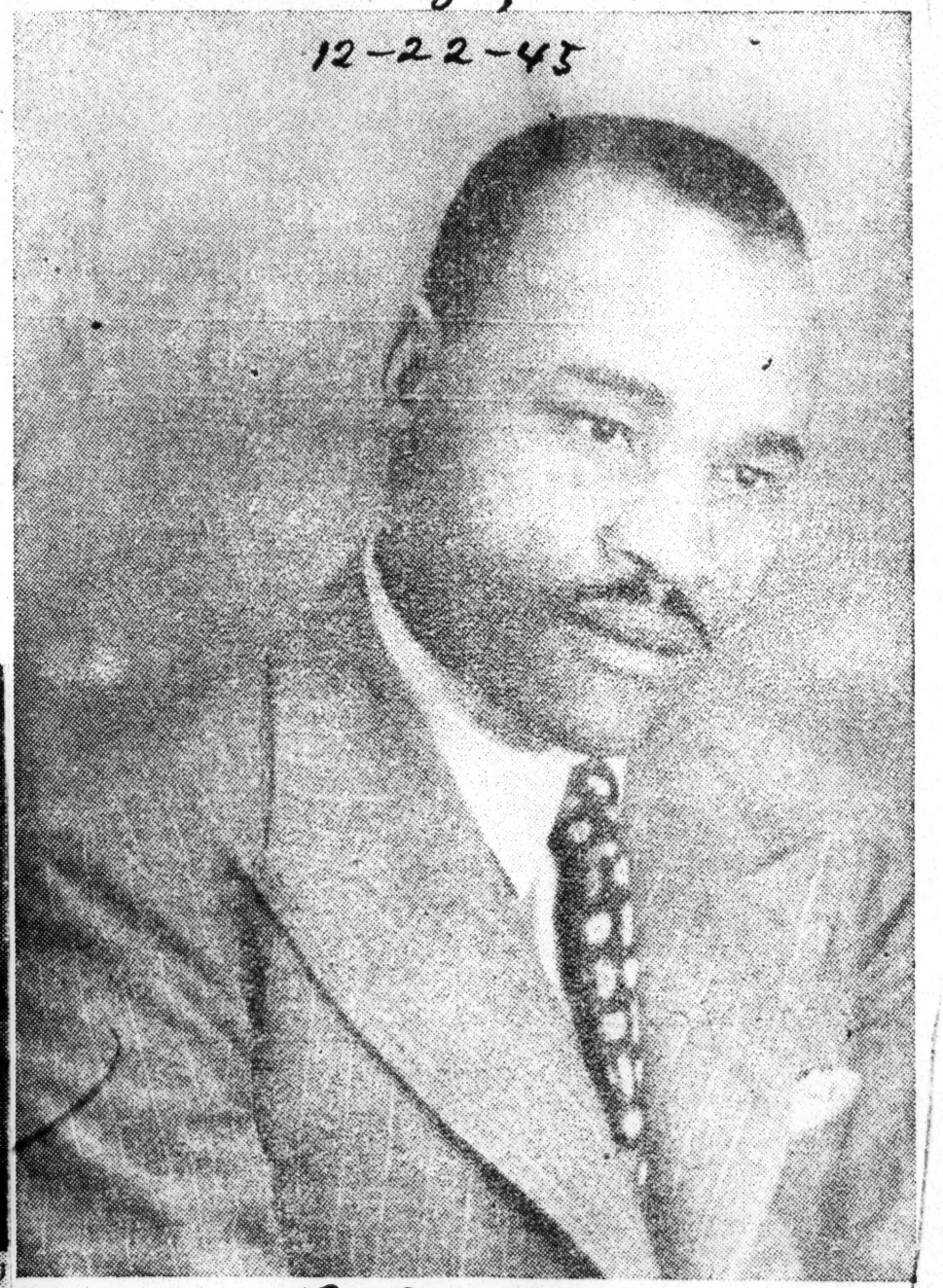


REUNITED IN ENGLAND—LONDON, England— Major L. M. Philpot, Providence, Rhode Island United Kingdom WAC Staff Director seated at desk talks to Campbells who were reunited in her office. They (left to right) Captain Noel Campbell, Wac, her father, Mr. Thomas Campbell, Sr., field agent for the Deparment of Agriculture, who is visiting London and her brother, Capt. Thomas Campbell, Jr., Medical Corps, all of Tuskegee, Ala. (U. S. Signal Corps Photo from Bureau of Public Relations.)

MR. J. K. MOHL OUTSTANDING AFRICAN ARTIST

Johannesburgh, S. A.

12-22-45



12-22-45

An exhibition of paintings in oils and water colours, and also black and white drawings by African pupils of Mr. J. K. Mohl, was opened on Monday and will last a whole week till next Monday December 24. Mr. Mohl is an outstanding artist among Africans and has in the past made several entries at exhibitions of paintings. The exhibition of the work of his pupils is being held at the Swedish Mission Church Hall, corner Hancock and Quartz Streets, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

1b-1945

Recent Restrictions On Cambridge Locals Believed Urged By S. Leone Education Dept.

Lagos

FREETOWN, May 15.— New restrictions about the Cambridge local examinations held here in December each year are contained in a circular recently issued by the Education Department.

The circular reads thus:

"The local examinations syndicate of the University of Cambridge have made the following rules to apply in Sierra Leone commencing from January, 1946.

"(a) For the Junior Certificate: no private candidate will be allowed.

"(b) For the School Certificate: candidates attending secondary schools must be entered by the principal of the school; candidates who have left school may be admitted by permission of the Director of Education.

"(c) Candidates for the Higher School Certificate must hold the School Certificate and must be pupils of an approved institution; they may only be admitted before they have completed a two years' post-School Certificate course by permission of the Director of Education."

According to this circular it seems that these new restrictions on the freedom of private candidates to sit for the Cambridge local examinations are limited to Sierra Leone.

If they are of general application to other parts of the British empire, they ought to have been worded differently

5-18-45

It seems strange that the local examinations syndicate of Cambridge University should have singled out this country for such restrictions.

It is very unlikely that it could have done so without some word in that direction from the responsible authorities here.

If the ball started rolling here, it would be interesting to know on what grounds these recommendations were made?

Was the percentage of failures the worst in the whole Empire?

Most people are appalled at the successful attempt of the Education Department here to grab control of almost any and everything within the last 10 years.

5-18-45

The department will only recognise the qualifications of students who take examinations which they control.

In some cases it does not recognise qualifications which are recognised in more advanced parts of the world. The L. C. P. diploma, for instance, is not regarded as a qualification for a graduate teacher to receive an extra £10 as personal grant.

These powers of control possessed by the Director of Education must necessarily be resented, particularly when it is realised that the director is manager of a government secondary school—the Prince of Wales School, and naturally takes the greatest interest in that school to the detriment of other schools.

The conditions—not the advertised ones—necessary to obtain certain government scholarships make it incumbent on most potential seekers of government scholarships to attend this government secondary school.

When the Elliot Commission was here nearly everybody seized the opportunity to tell the members of the commission of the "sins" of this department and its head, but all that enthusiasm has faded away and the department is left free to go again on its own way.

5-18-45

When serious and persistent attempts are made here to see that "competent authorities" do things in the right way and for the benefit of the people, there will be some hope for the future of this country.

Four Nigerians Crack Final Bar Examination

Lagos

West African Pilot

LONDON.—The latest report of the bar examinations conducted by the Council on Legal Education is as follows:

1-20-45

Miss Bisi Alakija, Messrs F. O. Blaize, S. Forster and M. O. Ibeziako have passed the final examinations.

In Real Property, Mr V. O. Munis obtained first class honours and Mr R. Vivour passed.

In Contract and Tort, Mr V. A. Ilori passed.

In Constitutional Law and Legal History, Mr H. O. Davies obtained second class honours and Mr J. A. Kester passed.

1-20-45

In Roman Law, Mr W. E. Eyo obtained first class honours, and Messrs E. C. Nwokedi and E. A. Uranta passed.

In all probability, Miss Alakija and Messrs Blaize, Forster and Ibeziako will soon be called to the bar, when they would plan to return home in order to begin to practise their profession.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Congratulations to our 'Merchants of Light!"

Anglo-American Group Visits Nigeria To Study Education And Agriculture

Lagos

West African Pilot

1-30-45

Group Includes Afro-American Author

Now in Lagos to make a study of education, agriculture and rural life in Nigeria, as they will do in two other British colonies in Africa, the Anglo-American Group have been united on this mission by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America and the Conference of Missionary Societies in Great Britain and Ireland.

This group, headed by Dr Jackson Davis of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York, includes Miss Margaret Wrong of the International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa and Mr Thomas Monroe Campbell, Aframerican, who is Field Agent, Extension Service of the US Department of Agriculture.

1-30-45

In his book "The Movable School Goes to the Negro Farmer," Mr Campbell reveals the thrilling history of the development of rural Dixieland.

Described as a semi-autobiography, the first three chapters of his opus deal with Mr Campbell's childhood and early struggles and his trip to Tuskegee where he left a heritage for his children who later came to be connected with the institute.

In part two of the book, he writes about the late Dr Booker T. Washington and how that patriot championed the Negro farmer, the growth and expansion of the movable school, exemplary achievements and propsects of rural life among Negroes.

Mr Campbell is the only Negro member of the group now in this country.

One phase of the purpose of this body's visits West Africa can be summarised as follows:

To observe the progress of agricultural and food production programmes among the African people in villages and in rural areas as fostered by government and the various missionary societies.

To study methods used by Africans in soil preparations and crop rotation.

To get information of types of subsistence farming equipment used and sources of labour supply.

To see if simple agricultural literature is being distributed among the Africans.

To see research and experiment stations and gain information on how solutions to farm problems are passed on to the African population.

To visit market places and observe varieties of food as produced and brought in by Africans from rural areas.

To learn something of African food habits in regard to health and nutrition.

Finally the group will try to find out the next step for the development of agriculture in Africa.



Lagos, Nigeria

West African Pilot

MR M. A. O. WILLIAMS

Barrister-at-Law. Together with Sergeant Bolo, Flight Engineer in the RAF, he arrived in Lagos yesterday.

Emir Decrees Compulsory Education In Kano Under Pain Of Fine Or Prison

Lagos

West African Pilot

Boys In The City Must Attend School

2-6-45

KANO Feb. 5.— Mallam Muhammadu Muhtar Dawaki, who is in charge of the Shahuchi School, Kano City, has written, in the latest issue of the Gaskiya Ta Fi kwabo, that His Highness the Emir of Kano has made a decree that boys must go to school on compulsion.

The Emir has ruled that any child going to school who fails to attend the school would cause his father to be fined 10/- or seven days imprisonmet for the first offence, and 20/ fine or 14 days imprisonment for the second offence.

This gesture of His Highness the Emir of Kano is welcome and it is hoped that this would be a prelude to better things to come.

Kano, the chief and ancient city in the north, should not only be the centre of commerce, but also a seat of learning.

With its 100,000 inhabitants, Kano can conveniently accommodate five colleges.

Iwolo Education Fund

PUBLISHED in the front page of this newspaper on Wednesday, February 21, was an account of the philanthropic gesture of the Iwolo Welfare Union in the Udi Division, towards education. The members of that union, on behalf of themselves and their people, offered the sum of £51 to the Roman Catholic Mission through the Manager of Schools at Eke, for the education of their children.

We see in that demonstration an awakening and realisation of what burden devolves today on all peoples of the country in our onward march. They have seen that they must no longer fold their hands while others grasp the plough. It is a welcome sign and we applaud it. Nigerian - Spokesman

According to the report, the amount was given so that the children of Iwolo village may be given free education by the Mission. Though the amount appears insignificant, one cannot overlook the fact that it is a start in the right direction. We are impressed by the effort of the people and the spirit which motivated it. Surely, it proves beyond doubt that the people are now aware of the benefits that are in store not only for themselves but for the whole country when their children receive proper education. 3-1-45

Though several other towns have made similar sacrifice, yet we congratulate the people of Iwolo, particularly the Welfare Union whose continued endeavours materialised the project. At the same time, we hope they will not rest on their oars but will strive to do more and much more still. Their effort should also mean an inspiration to those who had already made such gesture to greater achievements, while others who have not yet come into the roll should wake up from their slumber and follow in the steps of their brothers. Let it shine in all minds that the fight for education and democracy is one in which every hand is needed and one for which none can do too much. We hope that the R. C. M. authorities will do all in their power to deserve the confidence reposed in them.

Liberian Schools Re-Open: College Of West Africa Loses Valuable Teachers

West African Pilot 4-6-45

Lagos

By JACOB BROWNE, OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MONROVIA, April 5.— All the schools in the republic have been re-opened.

Due to the late arrival of the standardized text-books ordered by government, postponement of the opening of the schools was made from February to March.

The College of West Africa, a local high school sponsored by the Methodist Mission, opened with its President, Rev. Maurice E. Persons (white) presiding.

There were many distinguished persons present, and the guest speaker was Bishop Willis J. King, of the Methodist Church.

This school has lost many of its dependable teachers due to law pay, and many new faces could be seen sitting as faculty members. 4-6-45

It is hoped that the new bishop will try to raise the ability of the teaching staff.

Liberia College, the State's highest institution of learning, was opened when the school welcomed its President, Rev. Dr T. Ebenezer Ward who had recently returned from the United States of America.

The teaching staff at this school was raised by the dropping of some of the teachers.

4-6-45

Bishop King was also the guest speaker here, followed by Vice President Simpson, former President King, and other members of the board of trustees.

Let government assist these workers and so appreciate their philanthropy

Give them Grants-in-Aid

Hasten COLA to their staff.

Assist Those Philanthropists

Nigerian Spokesman

BY D. I. ANETO

If there is any pressing need at present in Nigeria, nay throughout the West African colonies, it is education; in all its forms, be it classical, technical, literary or otherwise.

"The harvest is indeed very great but the labourers are few."

One cannot but acknowledge and appreciate the efforts put up by the Nigerian Government towards our educational onward march in this country.

The Missionaries too have contributed even more than their quota and we owe them incalculable debt of gratitude for this yeoman service.

But there is another set of enthusiastic labourers in our educational field whose efforts and zest seem almost forgotten or at least regarded with contempt.

I refer to the private schools in this country.

They appear to be flowers blooming unseen.

This, of course, is war time when the Director of Educations' office should not be inundated with papers of request, yet, I feel that the time is getting overdue when at least some, if not all, our private educational institutions should receive the deserved recognition from the Educational Department of Nigeria.

A visitor to some of these schools can not but marvel at the general tone and esprit de corps attained.

These private schools recruit nearly the best qualified staff in the country and successes obtained by them at various overseas examinations are admittedly high. 2-25-45

Gratitude should be reciprocal.

These honest volunteers—the proprietors of various private schools—render invaluable services.

They help to extirpate the bugbear of mass illiteracy in this country.

Onitsha

Women And Society

DURING the hectic days of the battle over Britain, Premier Winston Churchill, in his appeal to the American nation said: "Give us the tools and we shall finish the job." Anyone who lives in a society without willingness, in spite of adequate means, to provide tools so that a better design for living can be carved out of funds for the community, is a parasite, a liability and not an asset. Nigerian Spokesman 12-4-45

We are not unaware of the disadvantageous position in which Nigerian women have been placed in the national scheme of things. We know that their lot is indeed a hard one, but there are always the inevitable two sides to every question. We cannot deny that a large number of women have succeeded beyond comparison in the field of commerce or rather trade. They have amassed wealth. They enjoy the amenities of the community.

Storey houses and palatial residences are the monuments to the ability of the Nigerian woman, when given the chance. In the field of education too, there are women matriculants, there are now to be found almost everywhere in government offices of £96 or more should be asked and forced to do so. We cannot t Nigeria build up our society, if one half contributes its quota and the Nigeria other lives in a complacent nook of laissez faire.

Barrister Stella Thomas had a lucrative practice in Nige Dr Abimbola Awoliyi is another case in point whereby Niger

Pilots And Education

West End News
West Indies

THE recent Bill providing for the establishment of Industrial Schools and Institutions for juvenile offenders will, it is hoped, effectively bring to an end the activities of the numerous 'Pilots' who infest the town and act as guides and procurers to American and British soldiers.

For the fullest opportunity to be taken of the new Bill, however it would appear that there is an urgent need for a revision of the Penal Code to bring 'Pilots' within the scope of the new Bill. At present it is by no means clear that the courts can deal with them and we consider that in the public interests the hands of the courts and the police should be strengthened. 3-24-45

We have constantly drawn the attention of government to the need for adequate corrective measures for these wayward boys and once again, we would urge that the necessary steps be taken. We would suggest that, as a preliminary measure, children under a certain age be forbidden to enter bars and hotels where alcoholic liquor is sold, and it should also be an offence for them to loiter around the precincts. The Police should have the power to move them on and, if they persist, to arrest them for loitering. 5-6

Another step which should be taken is to clear up the many brothels which abound. Vigorous police raids should be launched to be carried out and all 'Pilots' found on any raided premises should be liable to be dealt with under the Juvenile Offenders Law. In addition, we would suggest that the police be given power to arrest these boys when found following or guiding British and American soldiers. The better to enforce this, the Government should enlist the co-operation of the military authorities.

We believe that these measures, if adopted, would go a long way to curb the nefarious activities of these wayward boys, but they are not in themselves sufficient. They will ensure that such boys are punished, but the most important thing is to remove the evil through lack of opportunity rather than by fear of punishment. The source where immediately presents itself is education.

Careful investigation has revealed that the majority of these 'Pilots' are boys who have been to school but, owing to the Department of Education's regulations are no longer able to continue their schooling. Elementary schools in Accra and throughout the country fall into two main categories. There are the Assisted and Approved schools on the one hand, and the Non-Assisted schools on the other. Only Assisted and Approved schools are allowed to present pupils for the Standard Seven examination with the result that non-assisted schools only go as far as Standard Five—sometimes Standard Six—after which the pupils have to find places in Assisted or Approved schools if they are to continue. The number of Assisted and Approved schools is at present quite inadequate for the population of Accra and so there are very few vacancies available for boys from non-assisted schools. The result is that when a boy gets to the highest standard in a non-assisted school he is frequently unable to get a place in an Assisted or Approved school with the result that he loses interest in school. Since he is unable to find a job he eventually gets into bad company with the inevitable result that he joins the ranks of the 'Pilots'.

It is realised that there are bound to be boys who are naturally wayward and cannot be controlled by their parents but we are satisfied that the majority of the 'Pilots' in town are boys whose schooling has been brought to an end. The question of parental control does not always arise since, having no proper homes these lads are practically forced to spend their days out.

The key to the solution or at least a partial solution lies, we believe, with the Director of Education. His policy is largely responsible for this increase in lewdness and irresponsibility, and it is up to him to rectify it as far as lies in his power. The first step would be to revise the regulations relating to non-assisted schools. 6 3-24-45

Provision of Education.

Mochochonono

"Much, of course, remains to be done, particularly as regards health services. Basutoland is educationally one of the most advanced Native territories in Africa and Swaziland one of the most backward. In this matter the tribal schools of the Bechuanaland Protectorate are good but a good deal more is required, especially in the provision in the territory of secondary and technical education." 2-10-45

Lord Harlech advocated a more regular and frequent interchange with the corresponding Colonial services and those in East, Central and West Africa under the Colonial Office. It was, he said, a very bad plan to keep officials always in one colonial dependency. They tended to intrivert after long years in all but the largest depencies.

House of Moshesh

Maseru, Basutoland

Repplying to questions, Lord Harlech confessed some anxiety regarding the state of democracy in Basutoland vis-a-vis the House of Moshesh, adding that it is a somewhat mediæval tendency that has got to give way. While it would be folly to attempt to undermine the authority of Moshesh, the people have to be given their chance. Lord Harlech paid a tribute to the achievements of the Basutos in soil erosion, declaring that the work could never have been done without their help, with the authority of the Paramount behind it.

The great need of all Protectorates was the development of health services, both preventive and curative.

South Africa

Asked regarding the possibility of an interchange of officials in the Union, Lord Harlech declared that it would be all to the good if there could be more interchange of some young South Africans now entering the Colonial Service but he wanted more such entrants from the Dominions. 2-10-45

There was also immense scope for interchange in technical services. The Protectorates had drawn from the Union for education. Much more could be done on the same lines.

British Periodical Portrays Nigerian Students As Being Merely Crammers

West African Pilot

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON (By Air Mail).— The latest attacks on Africans by the English press is a continued and persistent attempt to portray Nigerians as "backward" and is contained in an article in the "Spectator," a weekly periodical published here.

In this obviously inspired attack, Nigerian students were presented to the world as being "shallow" and merely "crammers."

6-30-45

It was pointed out that although Nigerians passed examinations yet what they had studied never matures.

Mr J. A. Ajibola, former Tutor at the Abeokuta Grammar School, Abeokuta (now a scholarship student of linguistics at the School of Oriental Studies, London University) wrote a rejoinder, but it was suppressed by the editor of the Spectator, according to the usual practice of the English press, on matters of this nature.

The attack was concentrated on Nigerian students of medicine and it was understood to imply that Nigerian medical practitioners are "crammers."

Lagos

On being interviewed, one Nigerian student said:

"There is no depth to which British propagandists cannot sink.

"Is it not preposterous to say that a student can cram in order to pass medical examinations which involve practical tests too?

"Why Nigerians, specifically?

"We need not worry over this mendacious and pernicious propaganda by imperialists and their agents.

"For so said some people of the Japanese, the Indians, etc."

From opinions expressed among Nigerians here, there is reasonable ground to suspect that the attack on Nigerians will be intensified shortly and it behoves Nigerians to hold their powder dry, and present a united front, at home and abroad.

More Than A Century Late But British To Educate Natives

Chicago Defender

5-13-45

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON. (Special) — Eleven years and a century after Queen Victoria signed the Proclamation of Emancipation, the British Colonial Office has decided to establish universities in West Africa and the West Indies to train the native "elite" to lead the masses toward self-government.

This policy of colonial development is outlined in three official White Papers made public in London this week and signed by Mr. Justice Cyril Asquith, son of the late Lord Asquith, Prime Minister of this country during World War I.

"In the stage preparatory to self-government universities have an important part to play; indeed, they may be said to be indispensable," says the reports setting forth the British government's new approach towards colonial progress.

"To them we must look for the production of men and women with the standard of public service and capacity for leadership which self-rule requires . . . Moreover, universities serve the double purpose of refining and maintaining all that is best in local traditions and cultures and at the same time of providing a means whereby those brought up under the influence of these traditions and cultures may enter on a footing of equality into the world-wide community of intellect."

8-4-45

To carry out the lofty aims set forth above, the Colonial Office proposes to set up a university college in Jamaica to cater for the entire Caribbean area, and three university colleges—in Nigeria, Gold Coast and Sierra-Leone—to supply higher educational training for the 27 million natives of West Africa. These university colleges will gradually evolve into full-fledged universities; meanwhile, students studying at these institutions will receive degrees from the University of London. In the main report reviewing the present state of higher education throughout the colonial empire, Judge Asquith says that the proposed universities in Africa and the West Indies should be residential and open to men and women of all classes.

It is essential that the universities in Great Britain should take an active interest in the enlistment of staff from overseas. Conditions regarding pensionary or similar rights should not be such as to present an obstacle to the subsequent appointment of members of staff of colonial institutions to academic posts at home or the appointment of members of home university staffs to serve in the colonies.

British Professors to Teach

Dealing with the question of staffing the colleges in the colonies, the report says that part of the staff of the colonial institutions should be provided by secondment to them of members of the academic staffs of home universities. These might be of varying seniority, but they should be guaranteed a reasonable prospect of return without loss of seniority to their home university.

Active interest and co-operation of the home universities on which the development of the new colonial institutions will largely depend can best be secured through the creation of an inter-university council for higher education for the colonies.

For an interim period the colonial colleges should enter into a special relationship with London university, under which, subject to certain safeguards, their students may be awarded the degrees of that university.

There must be substantial financial aid from Great Britain. In order to tender advice on the allocation of funds from the British government, a colonial university grants advisory committee should be created on which the inter-university council would be represented.

500

A special volume of the report is devoted entirely to plans for the West Indian university.

The members of the commission which travelled around the islands and also visited Howard and other colored American universities was headed by Sir James Irvine. The West Indies was represented by Mr. Sherlock of Jamaica and Hugh Springer, a young colored barrister and political leader from Barbados.

The commission recommends the provision at the earliest possible date of a unified university for 400 to 500 students situated in Jamaica and serving the whole Caribbean area, including British Guiana. It is estimated that such a university will cost 1,630,000 pounds, with an annual expenditure of 139,690 pounds.

The teaching staff will consist of white and colored professors. It is generally believed in colonial circles in London that among West Indian scholars who will be invited to join the staff are Dr. Eric Williams, the brilliant historian now teaching at Howard university, Washington, D. C., and Dr. W. Arthur Lewis, native of St. Lucia, the first colored man to be appointed a lecturer in economics at London university.

Colleges for West Africa

While the West Indies will have one centralized institution of higher learning, the commission which investigated educational conditions in West Africa has recommended the setting up of three distinct colleges. This commission was under the chairmanship of Col. Walter Elliot, and had three Africans among its members. They were Kobina Korsah, a Gold Coast barrister who will shortly be made a High Court judge; Dr. Taylor-Cummings of Sierra-Leone, where he holds a high appointment in the Medical Service, and Rev. Ransom-Kuti, M.A., headmaster of a secondary school in Nigeria.

The following constitute the main points in the volume dealing with West Africa:

1. The establishment of a new university college at Ibadan in Nigeria, a development of Achimota college in the Gold Coast, and a reorganization on a new site of Fourah Bay college in Sierra-Leone, which will also serve the neighboring colony of the Gambia.

2. The development of certain professional schools, such as medicine, engineering, agriculture d veterinary science—to serve for the present the whole of West Africa.

3. The other university colleges will specialize in arts courses and all degrees will be awarded by the University of London. At the end of five years the situation will be reviewed and changes made in light of experience gained.

Nowhere will fully established universities be set up.

While the West Indian commission presented a united report, the one dealing with West Africa is split. In a minority report submitted to the Secretary of State for Colonies, four of the commissioners, Dr. Julian Huxley, Creech Jones, M. P.; Dr. Margaret Read, Sir Geoffrey Evans, formerly head of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad, West Indies, and Dr. H. J. Channon, call for the immediate establishment of only one university college to be located at Ibadan in Nigeria. This college will serve the four West African colonies and they further recommended that in each of the four colonies, institutions to be known as territorial colleges based upon existing ones like Achimota on the Gold Coast, Fourah Bay in Sierra-Leone and Yaba in Nigeria be transformed into teachers' training centers. At such centers courses in social science will also be given to the natives to prepare them to fill jobs in the lower grades of the government and commercial services.

It is estimated that it will cost in the region of 1,500,000 pounds to carry out the recommendations of the majority report. The annual recurrent expenditure will be about 250,000 pounds. The commission recommends that at first the greater part of this money be provided out of the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, plus contributions from the West African governments.

M. Williams & Sergeant Belo Arrive From UK

West African Pilot

Lagos Nigeria

Among the passengers who returned home from the United Kingdom yesterday afternoon were Messrs Magnus A. O. Williams, Barrister-at-Law, and Sergeant Belo of the RAF.

12

While in England, Mr Magnus Williams had a most brilliant career.

He was the Hon. Secretary of the National Committee of Africans in London, and is President of the Nigerian Legion. 11-28-45

Mr Williams has been in turn a telephone operator, clerk and sub-inspector of lines, seaman (greaser) while working his passage to England, a temporary inspector of telephones in Freetown and wireless observer in the Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Belo, Flight Engineer of the Royal Air Force is back home on three months' leave.

1b-1945

African - Education

Mass Education In Africa

Informer

By F. Bernard Young, Jr.
Editor, Journal and Guide
(With NNPA Commission in West Africa)

Houston Texas

ENUGU, Eastern Provinces, Nigera.—By Airmail.—In response to the increasing advocacy of mass education for Africans, the government of Great Britain has issued a Colonial Office white paper on "Mass Education in Africa for accomplishment of a measurable approximation of the ideal."

The proposal stresses throughout the "co-operation of the African himself," and reminds the advocates of mass education that the resources of the Colonial Development Fund, created in response to needs in those parts of the continent controlled by the empire are not such as to finance any complete program for widespread education.

The white paper goes further and adds: 2-10-45

What Is Involved

"Africans themselves must be the main agents in improving African life. That participation involves the training of all the Africans who are to take a share in the work.

"Though it is the central point of advance, the cooperation of the adult is an essential. It follows that the education of the adult is not less important, though in the early days of educational development it may not seem so urgent."

COST IS DILEMMA . . . . . .

Quoting the official document: "The one thing the white paper has not dealt with is the cost of this huge mass educational drive. Schools and textbooks alone will be very expensive and it is obvious that most of the dependencies (colonies, protectorates, and mandates) can provide little of the money required.

"Appeals to the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund might bear fruit but the amount required would, one imagines, leaves little in the fund.

'The British taxpayer will probably have to provide a great deal of money and he will want to know will be expected of him."

AFRICANS' VIEWS 2-10-45

The vocalized African opinion is that it is not the sole nor, necessarily, the prime function of the African to finance this program directly, in his present economic condition, inasmuch as he produces cheaply for the British government and public vast amounts of diamonds, gold, and other minerals, foods, fruits, cocoa, palm oils, and other products which, sold on the world markets, at a high price, have accumulated a reservoir of British wealth in which Africans have a clear and reasonable equity, and that, therefore, it is not the part of generosity nor of mercy, but of plain mathematics, logic, and justice for the people of Britain to finance the greater portion of the scheme, at least, until the day when the African has been permitted to achieve a stature in wealth and resources to enable him to underwrite his own education.

OFFICIAL VIEWS

There are quoted hereinafter an editorial from the official Nigeria Review on the program and an officially published simplified summary version of the white paper on mass education.

The editorial:

"UNITED EFFORT"

"On page three of this issue (of the Nigeria Review' we publish a summary of the Colonial Office White Paper, "Mass Education in African Society." It has been purposely simplified so that all our readers can get some idea of what the report says.

"The report itself does not make easy reading for it covers an enormous field and sets down in very close detail the views and recommendations of the committee responsible for it. 2-10-45

"In brief the white paper states that the task of educating every adult African under the age of fifty can be accomplished in a generation if it is vigorously attacked by modern methods and with the cooperation of the African himself.

IMPORTANT FEATURE

"With the cooperation of the African himself. That is one of the most important features of the report. There is in all parts of the Southern Provinces a strong demand for education among parents and children and parents will make the biggest sacrifices to ensure that their children go to school. Conditions are perhaps not yet the same in the Northern Provinces, but the desire must come, and will come, for nothing can prevent it.

"And how can the African help himself? He can do so now by making whatever learning he has communal property to be shared by his family, kindred and clan—or, if he lives in a large town, by the people in his street. It does not matter whether he has a Standard I or a Middle VI pass—he has got something to pass on. 2-10-45

"In passing it on he will find that he learns while he teaches for there is no better way of fixing facts in one's mind than by repeating them and trying to impart them to others.

ATTACK LAUNCHED

"The Ibadan branch of the Nigerian Union of Teachers has already launched its attack on illiteracy and has drawn up an admirable, and practical, guide to those teachers who are prepared to put their knowledge at the disposal of adults wishing to learn to read and write.

"The aim is simply defined. 'To teach adults to read and write. Yorba within as short time as possible' The union sees there is no time to waste; They know what they want and they are going to achieve it as soon as possible. 2-10-45

PLAN FOR THE JOB

"And this is how they will do it. In the first place, they invite teachers to start small classes of ten, or less, pupils. Before starting the class the teacher is asked to make absolutely sure that either he can keep it up, or, if for any reason he is called away, a friend will be ready to carry on his work.

"No rigid rules are made for the holding of the classes for the pupils are adults who must not be treated as children. The classes are held as often as is convenient to pupils and teachers. No elaborate apparatus is employed, for script can be taught in the early stages, as well in sand as on a blackboard. 2-10-45

BROAD OUTLINES

"Those are only the broad outlines of the scheme. They take only a few moments to write but they mean hours and hours of solid hard work bringing no remuneration to the teacher other than the satisfaction of knowing that he is working to help his own people.

"If this, or a similar plan, is accepted in other centers in Nigeria then a movement will be started for the people and by the people against one of the greatest barriers to progress in Nigeria—the illiteracy of the vast majority of her peoples."

The summary of the white paper:

"MASS EDUCATION"

"White Paper Emphasizes Need For Self Help"

"The white paper published under the title of "Mass Education in African Society" is one of the most important papers to come from the Colonial Office in recent years It is a plan for a direct attack on ignorance, superstition, and illiteracy in half of the continent of Africa.

'For many years it has been thought that the education of the African people must take many years. The writers of the white paper take a different view They believe it possible, by direct attack and by the use of modern methods, to provide an elementary education for all in about one generation (20 years). School accommodation for all should be the first aim and in the early stages quality must be sacrificed for quantity. It is more important that all should know the 3 R's (reading, wriitng, and arithmetic) than that a few should receive a higher education.

SCHOOLING FOR ALL 2-10-45

"But schooling for every child—a very ambitious scheme—is only part of the plan. In the past British policy has been to educate a few so that they, in their turn, might help to educate the masses. But this policy has had its drawbacks. In the first place it has resulted in the illiterate African placing an altogether exaggerated value on "education"—which in a great many cases has only meant literacy.

"It has, further, given to the literate African an unduly important position in society. The white paper proposed to sweep away this unfortunate distinction by abolishing illiteracy in all adults under the age of 50. 2-10-45

"The demand for literacy strong before the war, has been increased by the training given to thousands of African soldiers in different parts of the world. Young Africa wants, and wants badly, to put an end to their own illiteracy.

EDUCATION AND WELFARE

"The white paper report makes a new and good suggestion; that the mass education of adults should be made the center about which welfare plans are built.

"To take an example, let us imagine that in a certain district there is serious soil erosion. To correct this a campaign is started to show the people how to put a stop to the trouble. Cinema vans arrive, anti-erosion films are shown, broadcasts are given, demonstrations and meetings are arranged.

"The mass education officers get adult classes going and, while helping the people with their local soil conservation plans, teach them to read and write. The people then have a double wish to learn; first because they realize the advantages of being literate and, secondly, because they realize that by so doing they will be of much more help in attacking, and stopping, the erosion of their valuable farm lands.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES 2-10-45

"It is good to read in the white paper that the material used in teaching will have a great bearing on the lives and the needs of the people and that almost forgotten local industries and pastimes will be revived. By this the people will learn to work at the same things as their fathers did; they will take great pride in bringing the trades of the past into fashion again and in applying modern skill to them.

"The report wisely emphasizes the people themselves must cooperate wholeheartedly in the mass education movement.

"The way to get them enthusiastic will be to choose groups among those who are keen, and progressive enough to encourage others; and to get every man and woman who can read and write to become a self-appointed teacher to instruct the unlettered, not for payment but from a deep desire to help.

"This was the way in which Russia and China made such wonderful progress against the enemy—illiteracy. The Russians had reading rooms in everly village, and radios and films were widely used. These facts remind us that we shall require these are the types that you shape of reading material in English and the vernaculars, if we are to win the coming battle as quickly as we intend to 2-10-45

FINANCE FOR EDUCATION

"The one thing the white paper has not dealt with is the cost of this huge mass education drive. Schools and texthooks alone will be very expensive and it is obvious that most of the dependencies can provide little of the money required.

"Appeals to the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund might bear fruit but the amount required would, one imagines, leave little in the fund.

"The British taxpayer will probably have to provide a great deal of the money and he will want to know what the scheme will cost and what will be expected of him."

AFRICAN CONSECRATED ASSISTANT BISHOP 1-13-45

Afro-Amer.

LAGOS, Nigeria—(ANP)—The Rev. S. C. Phillips, archdeacon of the Anglican Church here, was confirmed and consecrated as assistant bishop by the archbishop of South Africa.

African Mission Back After School Inquiry

N.Y. Amsterdam News 4-14-45

Dr. Jackson Davis and Thomas M. Campbell returned to the United States last week after a six-months' stay in Africa, where they went as members of a three-man mission to study mass educational plans for Britain's African colonies. 4-14-45

Dr. Davis, an associate director of the General Education board founded by John D. Rockefeller in 1902, was chairman of the group, which included Miss Margaret Wrong of London and Campbell, whom Dr. Jackson praised.

Campbell, attached to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., "made friends everywhere," Dr. Davis said. "African natives, missionaries, teachers, government officials—all talked with him freely about their work and profited by his counsel."

Form American Council on African Education in NYC

AFRO-American
Baltimore, Md.

NEW YORK — The establishment here of the American Council on African Education, with Prince A. A. Nwafor Orizu of Nnewi, Nigeria, West Africa, as its first president, was announced last week.

Stating the case of the African people—"a mass of more than 200 million souls who must sooner or later be a factor in world stabilization or world disequilibrum"—and announcing the council's four-point program, Prince Orizu declared: 1-13-45

"Uneducated masses make neither good buyers nor good producers.

"The American Council on African Education visualizes, therefore, dissemination of sound education among the African peoples as a realistic means of reasing the standard of living in Africa.

4-Point Program Outlined

"With better health, cultivated intelligence and improved conditions of living, the African peoples will be in a position to buy more and produce more, thereby enriching the general economic well-being of the world, which will in turn promote a condition of permanent peace."

The council's plan embodies the following points:

1. The securing of scholarships for deserving African students in various American universities and colleges; 1-13-45

2. The promotion of educational and anthropological research as a means of fostering and enriching cultural and intellectual understanding between Africa and the West in general and between Africa and America in particular;

3. The establishment in America of a center or hostel for African students designed to promote their social and academic welfare; and

4. The reciprocal establishment in Africa of institutions and centers designed to facilitate parallel research activities on the part of American scholars.

Backed by Willkie, U.S. Colleges

Among more than 100 colleges and universities that have promised co-operation, according to council officials, are Yale, Harvard, Radcliffe, Ohio State and Boston, and contributions have already begun to flow into a fund established by the body.

Wendell L. Willkie, officials state, had just become a member of the advisory board when he died.

The program, in Prince Orizu's opinion, has a special impact upon the colored American in that it will help him to appreciate and understand himself more.

By opening up a large country like igeria, he points out, which is the largest black populated country in the world and potentially the richest in natural resources and future possibilities, the colored American will have the opportunity to demonstrate his ingenuity.

African Gri-Gri Schools Unlike Any In The World

Philadelphia Tribune—Pa.

By P. BERNARD YOUNG, Jr
(Journal & Guide Editor touring West Africa with N. N. P. A. Commision)

Phil., Pa.

MONROVIA, Republic of Liberia—(By Air Mail)—This is the story of the Gri-Gri Bush school, and a stranger thing Ripley never bared to the public view. To explain what I am talking about: Bush schools are the only, and at times weird, mode of jungle education in Liberia and other parts of Africa. —but what a curriculum!

They are called by various names in various places. Among the Vai tribes of Liberia they are named Bundu-Bush when they are for boys (and they are never co-educational) and Sande-Bush for girls. 4-14-45

Ruled by Feared Bush Devils

They are ruled by the bush "devils," who wear fearsome masks; and woe to the uninitiated or the stranger who dares violate the secrecy and privacy of the bush schools.

When I asked one authority near here what would happen to one violating the taboo, he shrugged significantly and declared emphatically "that would be the end for him . . ."

In other areas, or where there are different tribes, the schools are sometimes called Puro (or Poro)-Bush for boys. This name and Gri-Gri (or Gris-Gris) for girls are fairly common throughout West Africa.

The Customs and practices in the schools vary, but it is pretty common for the boys to be circumcised and for the girls to be operated upon with sharp stones or other crude but reportedly skillfully used instruments, to the end that they are more faithful to their husbands without being curtailed as childbearers. 4-14-45

Means No Female Humbugging

This latter is to make for "no humbug" in the words of the tribal elders and chiefs ordaining and backing the schools.

The average course in the schools is three years, and male graduates are completely competent for self-sustaining careers in the jungle, while the women graduates are taught, among other things, the facts of life and how to please their husbands and to be good, hard-working housewives.

The bush schools are one of the many interesting sociological oddities in West Africa, where there is so often a constant tug of war between the pagan and Christian modes of education and of life.

For the control of the minds and souls of the Africans, the foreign missionaries (many of them Americans) make a valiant if often misguided and uniformed struggle, supplementing the sketchy and often non-existent schools provided by government.

Cling to their Customs

But the African who is indigenous to the soil clings tenaciously, even with "civilizing" influences, to his immemorial customs and folkways. Especially do they cling to that animistic form of religion which is so bound up with the cult of the Bush - Devil and the witch-doctor.

Located often within sound of "civilized" centers but "a thousand miles away in space and a hundred years ago in time" the bush-schools are numerous and effective. Foreigners are permitted to attend only the "breaking of the Gri-Gri Bush," the commencement exercises of the ancient and peculiar (by our standards) form of schooling. 4-14-45

But one should insert parenthetically, that it is only the naive and unobservant traveler who scoffs at African mores, for always there is a sound and controlling environmental, health, or economic reason for what they do and how they live. And too frequently one finds those factors and persons bringing "civilization" merely change the native without substuting an equally valid custom, and without preparing him for, or adjusting him to, either his past mode of life or the more westernized system. They make him neither foul or beast.

Tom Campbell Back From Africa

5-18-46
Weekly Review

Thomas M. Campbell, extension service field agent of the U. S. Department of agriculture, who has just returned from a six month educational survey of west Afica with an Anglo—American mission told secretary Claude R. Wickard last week that a chain of movable methods to the people there. school is needed in Africa to carry education and health improvement

Because of his wide experience insouthern agriculture and in the operation of movable schools, having been the first operator of Tuskegee's school on wheels Mr. Campbell was loaned to the General Education Board by the Department last year to join the survey mission. He and Dr. Jackson Davis, associated director of GEB, left last September for Liberia where they were joined by the, third member of the mission Miss Margaret Wrong of Britain.

Traveling by plane, by rail, by boat, by auto, and on foot the mission toured more than 10,000 miles within the interior of Liberia Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Belgian Congo, French Cameroon and Gold Coast.

Getting close to the African people so that he could discover their needs and find out how best they could be met, Mr. Campbell talked with the people in their village market places, and in their homes, he coddled their children on his knees, sang to the people at their, and studied tehir agricultural production methods, their production methods, their health and joined their tribes, were their costumes, and nutritional standards. Birmingham, Ala.

Mr. Campbell told secretary Wickard that the people of Afica could help themselves if given adequate assistance in the way of nurses, doctors, tools, and agricultural technician to guide them in modern farming practices

He envision scores of movable school in Africa, staffed by trained agriculturalists, nurses, and home economists, winding their way village to village, carrying edu- along the narrow trails from cation and health improvement out to secretary Wickard that Charles Trout, former county practices to the people. He pointed agent of Alabama, whom the Department loaned to the Liberian Government last year, is doing an excellent job of helping the people

Municipal Elementary And Secondary Schools

The Gold Coast Independent
Accra, Gold Coast, W. Africa

AT a recent meeting of the Accra Town Council, Councillor Halm delivered what was described as one of the most impressive speeches ever delivered in the Council, on the subject of Municipal Elementary and Secondary schools. 9-28-45

He pointed out that many of the social evils which are committed in the municipality of Accra can be traced to lack of education on the part of the masses. Refuse would not be thrown recklessly about, streets and drains would be much cleaner and consequently, the breeding of mosquitoes would be avoided if education was wide spread and we would prefer more up-to-date buildings with better ventilation, and spitting about, in bedrooms, buses churches and other places would cease, and above all superstition would cease to exist. Our women folk would also learn to appreciate the advantage of our Maternity hospitals and child Welfare Clinics 9-28

In the past, it has appeared as if the Accra Town Council, had only been concerned with the garnering of revenue, and regardless of repeated increases in taxes the improvement of the lot of the inhabitants in the municipality, has not received enough attention. According to Councillor Halm, on the population of 30,000 children of school going age, only 12,000; according to recent census by the Gold Coast Teachers Union have accommodation in the schools. The rest are to roam the streets of strangers, or are apprenticed to carpenters blacksmiths and fitters. Is there any wonder therefore that the number of juvenile offenders is increasing year by year? Is it any wonder that we have so many inefficient carpenters blacksmiths and fitters?

There is no doubt that Councillor Halm has made a case and the suggestion by Councillor Halm is worthy of consideration. 9-28-45

Whenever such important matters such as Councillor Halm has suggested come up before the responsible authorities we are told that there is lack of funds and the suggestion is then shelved. Years after year we have pointed out that the people of this country should no longer be allowed to exist half slave and half free in so far as education is concerned because where ignorance is bliss it is a great folly to expect that the people can be wise. The only cure for illiteracy is education and we are grateful to Mr Halm for bringing this fact to the notice of the Accra Town Council. As Councillor Halm stressed in the course of his address a visit to the schools at the beginning of each year discloses the most terrible conditions. One is dismayed to see parents and guardians with tears in their eyes appealing to the school authorities to admit their children without success because every class is filled.

The only way of saving such an unhealthy situation is for the Accra Town Council to take early steps to establish elementary and secondary schools in the Municipality of Accra capable of accommodating the surplus 17,000 children of school going age. It is the bounden duty of the Council to do this and it must be done at all cost. This is the policy adopted in all civilised countries and we hope that the Accra Town Council will not allow financial considerations to deter them from discharging this very important duty.

The Renascent African Trade School

West African Pilot 1-6-45

WHENEVER we hear of men who are not satisfied to remain in the cellar whilst light and vision prevail on the surface, we applaud them, because one man preferred to face the reality of broad day light and emerge from darkness, a school was born. It aims at encouraging the African to appreciate the beauty of manual work and thereby it creates a landmark on the road to true progress. For only through such efforts will susceptibility to soft collar and pen-pushing jobs be conquered.

It is fitting therefore that there are still dreamers who want to place manual work on the map. We believe that the vast resources of Nigeria cannot, when the time comes, be tapped by individuals who are slaves to clerical vocations. Rather, the Nigerians who will count tomorrow will be those who are unashamed and proud to use their hands. Indeed, without hands to concretise the work of designers of the various professions, our raw materials would serve no useful purpose. 1-6-45

Those who propagate the teaching of manual work therefore are the pioneers of the dreamed of Nigeria. If we are to take full advantage of self-government, when it comes, we shall require the artisans, not the illiterate tradesmen of old, but a more advanced type, who will realise and respond to the nation's demand for a better way of life. By building manual institutions and training our young people with a purpose and not merely to learn the three Rs, we can achieve this goal. Lagos

In view of this, we hail Mr V O. Nwannakwe, Proprietor of the Renascent African Trade School at Ihiala for his initiative, ambition and patience. This former teacher, as we reported recently, was dissatisfied with the un-African setting of the curricula of most Nigerian schools. That reason alone spurred him to seek adventure to the North, to learn Arabic and a string of trades in order to establish an institution where now, without class or religious bitterness, children are being trained for the great and brighter tomorrow.

New Trade School Is Established At Ihiala

West African Pilot
Lagos

IHIALA.—A recent addition to the educational progress of this town was the establishment of the Renascent African Trade School whose proprietor, Mr V. O. Nwannakwe, was a former schoolmaster of the Roman Catholic mission 1-4-45

Dissatisfied with the un-African setting of the curricula of most Nigerian schools, Mr. Nwannakwe relinquished his post in 1934, and proceeded to the north where he continued his profession, but this time also as a student of Arabic. 1-4-45

He subsequently became a teacher in a quranic school of the north and also earned the title of Shaih Mallam Doma (S.M.D.).

Having learnt many trades during his five-year sojourn in the north, and, spurred on by the doctrine of the new Africa which was then taking hold of the country, this Islamic teacher began to dream dreams and see visions of how best to change the outlook of Nigerian youths by means of education. 1-4-45

His dreams were subsequently translated into actuality by the establishment of the Renascent African Trade School in 1942, on his return to this town.

The RATS is a non-denominational institution, and is out to help destroy the forces of ignorance, idleness and predilection for the white collar occupations among local youths. 1-4-45

It has African and foreign industries among its subjects and its curricula include weaving, pottery, photography, etc.

Students are grouped according to their age and financial standing and also having regard to the trades in which they are interested.

Miss Bisi M. Alakija Weds A Gold Coast Student In UK

Lagos 1-30-45

LONDON — West African Law students in Great Britain are creating records at the bar examinations in recent years.

Mrs Olabisi M. Renner nee Miss Bisi Alakija is the daughter of the late Hon. Olayimika Alakija, Barrister-at-Law, of the Middle Temple, and has finished all her examinations in 18 months without any failure.

Mr M. Ogo. Ibezlako, was the head typist at the Secretariat, Lagos, and has completed his bar examinations in 2 years.

Mr V. O. Munis has created a record for West Africa by passing Real Property-First Class Honours.

Admittedly Real Property is the most difficult subject in the bar (part I) examinations.

Miss E. M. Christian who passed the final at the Michaelmas examinations completed the Bar in just 20 months.

Mr M. A. O. Williams of the Royal Air Force, who also passed at the 1944 Michaelmas examinations finished 2½ years as a part time student. 1-30-45

These are records which redound to the credit of West Africa as a whole.

Mr Campbell Calls For Application Of Brains To Common Occupations Of Life

West African Pilot 2-1-45

Lagos

In a recent broadcast over the Lagos Radio Rediffusion Service, Mr Thomas Monroe Campbell, of the Anglo-American Group now on an educational and agricultural mission to West Africa, spoke of Tuskegee Institute, to which he is closely associated "as a good demonstration of inter-racial co-operation between Negroes and white peoples in America."

Mr Campbell, an Aframerican himself, was interviewed by Rev. J U. Lewars of the Scottish Mission, Calabar.

This was his first visit to Nigeria. Speaking to the people, Mr Campbell said: 2-1-45

"Coming from America as I do and being of African descent, I am deeply interested in the future of the African people, especially in regard to food production, food habits, health and education."

Mr Campbell, Field Agent, US Department of Agriculture, supervises co-operative extension work in agriculture and home economics among Negro farmers.

He was born in Georgia, where a large population of Negroes lives.

At Tuskegee he received his formal educational training. 2-1-45

His work extends over seven of the southern states of the United States.

As a student at Tuskegee, Mr Campbell knew Dr Booker T. Washington personally.

He describes him as "truly one of America's great men."

With his many duties as Principal of Tuskegee, Dr Washington never lost touch with the common people and rural life, the churches and preachers, schools, teachers and farmers.

In conferences, he had urged them to build better institutions, to buy land and erect more comfortable homes.

He had told them also to raise food for the family and to send the surplus for sale. 2-1-45

He had emphasised the need for saving money, looking after their health, educating their children and living clean, moral lives.

In 63 years, continued Mr Campbell, Tuskegee has become the largest Negro educational institution in the world.

It is today a living monument to Booker T. Washington and his fellow workers. 2-1-45

Mr Campbell referred to late Dr George Carver as another outstanding Negro and commended his contributions to southern agriculture by finding new uses for peanut, sweet potato and cow pea.

The doctor had been one of his teachers.

Asked by Rev. Lewars to sum up what Tuskegee stands for, he quoted Dr Booker Washington as uttering a great truth when he said:

"We shall prosper in proportion as we learn to dignify labour and put brains and skill into the common occupations of life." 2-1-45

Mr Campbell concluded:

Thousands of Negro men and women trained in Tuskegee in the three, their heads, hearts and hands had gone out into the world and are helping to make it a better place to live in.

Debaters Thrash Out Viewpoints On Subject Of Mixed Secondary Education

West African Pilot

Lagos.

That mixed education should be encouraged among the pupils of the upper classes of secondary schools was the subject of an interesting inter-collegiate debate held in the CMS Grammar School Hall recently, under the auspices of the Fraternity of Saint Gregory's Old Collegians. 3-22-45

Miss G. Plummer, Assistant Director of Education, was in the chair, supported by the Right Reverend Leo H. Taylor, C.B.E., and the Reverend Father T. Moran.

The debate ended in victory for the opposition.

Leading the proposition Mr M. B. Ugot, of the Higher College Old Boys' Association supported mixed education on the ground that it prepared the child for future social life since it eliminated the inferiority complex — prevalent among girls, developed mutual respect and provided opportunity for healthy intellectual competition.

Mr Ugot, therefore suggested the amalgamation of King's and Queens Colleges and the CMS Grammar School and Girls' Seminary. 3-22-45

Mr P. E. Ekpe, of the Fraternity of Saint Gregory's Old Collegians, who led the opposition, marshalled such formidable arguments that he largely contributed towards the ultimate defeat of the resolution. 3-22-45

Among the points raised by him were the physical and mental differences, of the sexes, which required an equally different approach to problems of education; the difficulty or even impossibility of obtaining people with suitable character and qualification to staff such mixed secondary schools and the failure of Russia's experiment on mixed education.

Mr Ekpe contended that while man's intellect worked by a process of reasoning, women were guided more by intuition. 3-22-45

Seconding the proposition, Mrs A. E. Sagoe, of the Methodist Old Girls' Association, maintained that in modern times women have demonstrated their ability to compete with men in almost every respect, so that any ar-

Four Nigerians Have Left For Studies In UK

West African Pilot

Four more Nigerians have proceeded to the United Kingdom for further studies.

Mr G. N. A. Okafor will study law and commerce.

Mr Okafor was educated at Government College, Awka and later at Baptist Academy, Lagos and the Yaba Higher College, where he passed the intermediate examination of the B.A. degree in 1941.

Before he left Nigeria he was an Assistant Labour Officer-in training. 3-19-45

Mr Victor A. Oyeniga will also study law and commerce.

He was educated at St. Emmanuel's School, Isonyin and joined the Medical Department after passing the clerical entrance examination.

He obtained the London Matriculation two years ago.

Mr J. S. Branco of Lagos and Mr E. K. Elliot-Spain, retired civil servant will both undertake the study of commerce.

Lagos

1b-1945 Africa Education

WHO'S WHO IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK

Johannesburg, South Africa
The BANTU WORLD
4-28-45

Among the sixty-one graduands who were capped at Fort Hare on April 7, was Miss Pauline Masenya of Pietersburg. Her major subjects were **Physics** and **Mathematics**. She is the second African woman to obtain the science degree in South Africa, the first one being Miss Haksonia Lineo Mahabane, of Kroonstad, and one of the few students in the country who have specialised in Physics and Mathematics. Miss Masenya received her earlier education at Khaiso, Pietersburg, and Marianhill. It was in these schools that she showed special talent in the pure science. She is now reading for the University Education Diploma at Fort Hare.

4-28-45

The other African woman who was also a graduand was Miss Mary Junia Todd Langa, also of Pietersburg. Miss Langa obtained the B. A. degree with **English** and **Psychology** as major subects. She received her secondary school education at Khaiso and was a contemporary of Miss Masenya. She has resumed her duties at the Bantu High School, Western Native Township, Johannesburg.

BARD TRANSLATED FOR SOUTH AFRICAN

The Birmingham Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala. 10-4-45

PRETORIA, South Africa—The Immortal Bard, whose works are being translated into the Afrikaans language by Professor L. L. Coertze, of the law department at Pretoria University, soon will be played in many villages where English is little understood.

The professor now is translating Hamlet into Afrikaans and admits that some quotations have kept him awake nights, worrying how to do the job. The following has him baffled: "I could a tale unfold whose lightest word would harrow up thy soul, freeze thy young blood. . . .thy knotted and combined locks to part and each particular hair to stand on end, like quills upon the fretful porcupine."

However, he is credited with doing much to improve cultural relations between natives and English speaking people.

Training African Women to Teach Kenya Natives is Begun

The Pittsburgh Courier
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 10-6-45

KABETE, West Africa (ANP)—Twenty young African women are enrolled in the new teachers' training center here for the two-year course that will qualify them to teach in the village schools in Kenya.

The course is designed on very practical lines and includes instruction in domestic science, agriculture, handwork and needlework. The first year of the teacher course, sponsored by the Kenya Education Department, will be mainly a continuation of their school work, with emphasis on the better understanding of English. The second year deals more thoroughly with teacher training, similar to Froebel training.

The center here, where twenty young women around 17 years of age are enrolled, is operated by two European teachers. Additional enrollees for the training course are being sought in South Africa by Miss M. Janisch, assistant director of education in Kenya. The Union government has relaxed the usual embargo on teachers leaving the Union as a special concession to the fulfillment of the important educational program.

"This is only the beginning of a new departure in government African education," remarked a spokesman for the Kenya Education Department, "that is intended to increase the facilities and open two or three other teacher training centers when the buildings can be completed and the staff collected."

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL OPENED IN WESTERN TOWNSHIP

The Bantu World Johannesburg
9-1-45 South Africa

"This is an important day in the annals of Native Education," said the Administrator of the Transvaal (General Pienaar) when he opened the Industrial School at the Western Native Township last week-end. "The first well equipped industrial centre serving Native schools has been completed and is to-day handed over to competent African teachers for the training of African boys and girls."

"It is fitting," he said, "that the first centre of this kind should be opened in the greatest industrial city of the Union and that the first citizen of Johannesburg should be presiding on this occasion."

In a short address of welcome to the Administrator, the Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. Immink announced that the municipality had decided to build a secondary school in the township.

"This school might be regarded as a first step towards the solution of the manifold problems of adjustment for African urban communities," said the Administrator.

9-1-45

CHAOTIC CONDITIONS

There had been criticism that the training in Native schools was too bookish; but it was the tremendous growth of Native urban communities which had made satisfactory training so difficult. In contrast to the steady development of country schools on mission farms, where it had been possible to carry out the education policy of the department successfully in congenial surroundings, was the revolutionary expansion of urban locations, where schools sprang up like mushrooms and overflowed from church buildings into shanties and back-yards.

Such chaotic conditions determined the provincial authorities to take drastic steps to create better conditions. A great number of suitable school buildings had been erected all over the Reef by missions, municipalities and the Education Department, with the help of the Government.

This new building was dedicated to manual training and the African community primarily, and the City of Johannesburg should soon feel its beneficial effect in combating social evils which took so heavy a toll of African children.

Bantu Studies at N.U.C.

Free State Advocate

Higher Education For Africans

MOCHOCHONONO

The establishment of a Department of Bantu Studies at the Natal University College was announced by Mr E.G. Malherbe, Principal at the annual speech-day and prize giving at Adam's College last Saturday afternoon. It will begin with the appointment of a professor of social anthropoly and lecturer in Zulu. 12-8-45

Mr Malherbe advocated higher education for non-Europeans with the object of training leaders among the African people. Natal University College, he said, was definitely interested in this higher education and they now had 187 non-European students. Mesery Basutoland

"Up to now we have not given the type of education to non-Europeans which I would like to see," said the principal. "It has been the 'cafeteria' type where you snatch a bit and go off. I hope the time will come when we will have in Durban a full-time college for non-Europeans with residence for students.

Dr. Malherbe gave figures showing the tremendous development of African education. The number of non-Europeans in high school classes in South Africa today was more than 17,000, of whom 12,241 were Bantu. In the Junior Certificate class there were 3,653 non-Europeans of whom 2,137 were Bantu. The number of non-European matriculation students was 559 of whom 320 were Bantu. More than 700 non-European postmatriculation students were today at university. 12-8-45

There was a big reservoir out of which they could draw sufficient matriculants for medical school course. More than 80 per cent of the 559 non-European matriculation students were taking science and more than 40 per cent. mathematics, two subjects required for medical studies. Yet at dearth of doctors existed in the country districts and African territories. Among the Europeans there was one doctor to every 1,000 people. This compared favourably with European countries. Among Africans there was only one doctor for 20,000 people.

Dealing with African education in general Dr Malherbe said there were two methods. One to educate the masses—to spread education thinly. The other was to concentrate on the leaders. He favoured the latter course. Education thinly spread was dangerous in that it made the people vulnerable to subversive propaganda. 12-8-45 It was essential to train the leaders to see life as a whole so that they could interpret it to their people. The mark of the well-educated man was that he was not led to extreme reactions. —Umteteli

Commission Recommends Three Colleges Of Higher Education In West Africa

Gold Coast Independent
7-28-45

THE recommendations of the Commission on Higher Education in West Africa have been released today.

In making their recommendation the Commissioners say that they were conscious that British West Africa needs a very large number of well-trained te chers, doctors, scientists, agriculturists, administrators and research workers. These people they say are needed now and for the most part they will have to be trained on African soil. The report reads: 'Space for those needed to be trained is not available in the Universities of Britain; even if it were so, the cost of such a solution to the problem would be prohibitive. Moreover British West Africa, with a population of twenty-seven millions, must have its own centres of learning and research, if its people are to take their place among the peoples of the world, and be captains of their own destiny.

7-28-45

The commissioners recommend the development of three colleges of Higher Education in British West Africa. These are Ibadan in Nigeria, the development of Achimota College in the Gold Coast; and the reorganisation of Fourah Bay College to serve both Sierra Leone and the Gambia. Each of these University Colleges would provide courses in Arts and Science. Certain professional Schools should be developed. These are the schools of medicine including dentistry, agriculture, forestry and animal health—all situated in Nigeria—and an institute of education as an integral part of the University College in the Gold Coast.

Each of these University Colleges would provide intermediate courses in engineering and for for the time being Achimota, and later Ibadan would provide a degree course. The three Colleges would maintain a course for the training of teachers for the secondary schools, but the commissioners say that for other University studies, they recommend that West African students should continue to go to Britain.

It is estimated that something like one and a half million pounds, and an annual recurrent expenditure in the region of two hundred and fifty thousand pounds, will be necessary if the recommendations are carried out. We have recommended, said the report, that the greatest share of this expenditure should be met from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund and that the share to be met by the West African Governments should be gradually increased until they ultimately bear the whole cost.

Such in brief are the conclusions of the majority of the commissioners. They point out that whatever is done for the people, Government can only provide them with the outward symbol and strappings of a University; it is the people alone who can eventually make a vital intellectual force, working for the general good of humanity. Our recommendations, they say, are made in the firm faith that the peoples of West Africa will be able to justify their adoption to the full.

Five Members of the Commission, Professor Ghannon, Sir Geoffrey, Evans, Professor Julian Huxley, Mr Creech Jones and D. Margaret Reed signed a minority report, although they are in general agreement with many parts of the majority report. But they are in serious disagreement as regards the establishment of the University. They point out that they regret a difference of opinion, particularly as the Commission set out together with the common desire to make recommendations regarding the development of Higher Education in British West Africa, which would fulfil the highest hopes. These commissioners believe that the development of higher education will be best promoted by the formation of a single University College in Nigeria for the whole of British West Africa with a territorial college for Sierra Leone, for the Gold Coast and for the Gambia. The University would be entitled the West African University College and should be situated at Ibadan, and the territorial colleges should be devoted to providing courses to intermediate level, to the training of teachers and social welfare workers, and to adult education and extramural activities. Students would proceed to the West African University College from the territorial colleges, after taking their intermediate course there.

7-28-45

The West African University College in addition to the professional schools of medicine, agriculture, forestry and animal health should also comprise the proposed institute of education and the West African school of engineering. It would be of advantage, says the minority report, if the research headquarters of the institute of West African Arts, Industries and Social Sciences were situated at Ibadan. In putting forward these proposals the minority consider that they would avoid the diffusion of effort and resources, when all the circumstances suggest to them the urgent need for concentration.

Information Department.

ACCR

Higher Education in the Colonies

British Weekly
London, England

SIR,—THE BRITISH WEEKLY is to be warmly commended for its review of the Government Reports on this question by the able pen of a scholar like Dr. John Taylor Dean.

10-11-45

It may be noted that this is the first British Government Commission on which West African representatives have served—there being three of them. It has been generously admitted that Missionary Societies have been the pioneers in the field of Education: the work was begun, and for many years carried forward, almost entirely by missionary effort. In fact, the Commission goes on to say: "It is a very remarkable thing that even to-day if the educational institutions conducted by religious bodies were suddenly to vanish, the greater part of education in British West Africa would practically disappear. It is a simple historical fact that, save for the churches, now largely Africanised, no one so far has seriously tackled, on the grand scale, the sheer hard work of West African education." A remark like this is heartening in the extreme, and especially at the present time when we are having the Triple Jubilee celebrations of the London Missionary Society.

I cannot say that I have much sympathy with Dr. Dean's criticism that the colleges are to be erected "under a low sky." As a matter of fact, theological instruction is already being given very efficiently in the Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone, the oldest missionary college in West Africa, and in the process of time there will doubtless be a faculty of theology in each of the expanding universities.

10-11-45

It will be readily conceded that true culture is based upon "the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom," but it is quite another matter to suggest that "there should be someone on the staff whose whole-time job is to look after the religious life of the university." Such a conception would forestall even the procedure in vogue in British universities. It is true that "character must rest on something," but that something is not theology or philosophy, but the spirit of Christ manifested in the lives of Europeans in their everyday dealings with the sons of the soil, who expect those who profess the Christain faith to shed all semblance of "superiority complex" and to join Africans in the struggle for the common rights of man.—Yours sincerely,

10-11-45

NORMAN GANTZER.

Parkstone, Dorset.

lb-1945 Liberia

Poor Liberian Leadership Laid To Educational System

EDITOR'S NOTE—The Rev. C. C. Adams returned recently from Liberia and the African West Coast, where he was sent as a repreesntative of the Baptist Church. In this article the Rev. Mr. Adams tells the effect of education on African and the Liberian Republic.

Pittsburgh (Pa.) Courier 8-4-45

By The REV. C. C. ADAMS, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, National Baptist Convention

Education in Liberia is the forecast of the Liberia of tomorrow. I do not consider it unfair to state, neither do I believe it can successfully be denied, that one reason Liberian leadership has been so poor and has not made any more headway than it has, is largely caused by the slothfulness and backwardness of the Liberian citizenship.

We find today a few Liberians well educated by schooling, travel and contacts on a wide scale. They have studied in colleges and universities abroad and have traveled in many countries. These are people of considerable wealth and mostly in positions of government. Then, there are the average Americo-Liberians. Most of these are intelligent and possess enough formal training to read and write fluently, but prepared for nothing particularly. They are not sufficiently trained in any definite things to give directive and driving power. They are an example of the saying, "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

EDUCATION OF NATIVES

Then there is the overwhelming population of the natives and largely raw heathens, who are not only ignorant of western citivilization, but care less. They not only (that is, the chiefs) care nothing about western civilization, but are sworn to hold the walls and empire of heathenism against an invasion of any and all foreign forces and influences. Yet, these people we call heathens, have a sort of educational system, by which their children are thoruoghly taught, and grounded in the traditions of the dead past. Many things they have are beautiful and of eternal values, and much the best educational system in the world should embrace.

The deadly fault of their system is, it only has a backward look to the past, and never a forward look to the future. It makes absolutely no provisions for progress. Of course this kind of system could not properly come under the head of education, but I mention it here because this is one of the problems that Liberia is confronted with, when she considers the subject of enlightening the people through educational process. To say the least, the government and country have been given a big and difficult order to fill.

CAN THEY FILL THIS ORDER?

They refuse to be frightened or discouraged because of the magnitude of the task. They say they can do it, it must be done and it will be done. Though they do not minimize nor under-estimate the time, efforts and sacrifices that must be put into it. This is why the government welcomes and cooperates with Christian missionaries by giving grants of land and other favors. They realize that they need all the help possible for the solution of the problems of heathenism, ignorance and superstitions. 8-4-45

The government not only welcomes missionaries, but has invited and cooperated to the limit, with the four special missions from the United States of America:

(1) Health and Sanitary Mission
(2) Planning Mission
(3) Agricultural Mission
(4) The Economic Mission

All of these missions are educational in their administration. They have even contacted the Phelps-Stokes Fund, and there has been established at Kakatown, in the interior, deep in the heart of native heathenism, a school named "Booker T. Washington Industrial Institute of Liberia."

1b-1945

Nigeria

PROPOSALS ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR BRITISH WEST AFRICA

Public Opinion
Kingston Jamaica

Youth in Nigeria, Gold Coast or Sierra Leone who desire a sound university education or professional trainind must leave home and go to England or America to get it Achimota College and other higher institutions in these colonies provide a valuable service to many students, but their curriculum and facilities are limited. Those who can affor, to do so—very few, obviously—go abroad, mainly to London to complete their studies.

8-20-46

To find a remedy for this situation and to meet the people's demand for more and better higher education in the colonies, a commission was appointed by the British Colonial Secretary about two years ago to study the problem. The Elliot Commission on Higher Education in West Africa, whch included three Africans among its members, made an extensive survey in the colonies and gathered voluminous testimony from interested organizations and individuals. Its report was completed and submitted in May.

While the full contents of the report are not yet known, the principal feature is the recommendation for the establishment of two university colleges, one in Nigeria and the other on the Gold Coast, and for Fourah Bay College in Sierra Leone to be developed as the third. The three institutions would comprise a unified university system with the Nigerian College offering the broadest curriculum.

Engineering, agriculture, medicine, veterinary science, and arts would be taught. The omission of instruction in law, commerce, and mining—for reasons yet undisclosed—is certain to evoke sharp criticism from the West Africans.

By way of comparison it should be noted that India's expanded post-war educational program calls for sending a total of 1500 Indian students, 500 a year, to the United States during this year, 1946 and 1947, to study in American colleges and universities and to gain firsthand experience in American business and manufacturing concerns. The Indian government will pay for the transportation, maintenance and tuition fees of the men to be sent, the amount to be about $2,000 a year for each student. The student will remain here either two o three years.

1a-1945

Teachers

AFRICAN TEACHERS PAID LESS THAN LABOURERS

The Bantu World South Africa

7-7-45

The serious plight of African teachers is emphasised in a statement issued by the executive committee of the Orange Free State African Teachers' Association.

"Native labourers in Bloemfontein are paid much better than Native teachers. So inadequate are the teachers' salaries to meet the rising cost of living and the standard of living expected of them, that they not only fail to compensate for the expense of training, but also fail to provide for the feeding of the teacher's family even if he has to live on mealie-meal and porridge alone," says the statement.

"Driven to despair, Native teachers are forced to indulge in other practices to increase their incomes. This must have serious detrimental effects on those committed to their care. Native lorry drivers and Native shop assistants are better paid than Native teachers. A class 1 Native male teacher is paid a basic salary of £8 a month, plus an allowance if in a town or rural area, but no allowance if in a Native reserve. This allowance ranges from 10s. to £1 10s. a month. Classes 2, 3, 4 and 5 are paid much less respectively. The majority of Native teachers belong to Classes 3 and 4.

"A Class 1 Native woman teacher is paid a basic salary of £6 10s.; Class 2, £5; and Class 3, £3 10s.

"Nothing has been mentioned about the temporary cost of living allowance not because we want to conceal the truth, but because this allowance is so low that it does not offset the increase it is intended to meet. The position stated refers to teachers in primary schools."

Dealing with Native teachers in secondary schools, it is argued that they should receive the same pay as European teachers because they hold the same qualifications and do the same amount of work.

Fusion of Bantu Languages Recommended

Methods of encouraging the survival of Bantu languages were suggested by Professor G. P. Lestrade, Professor of Bantu Languages at the University of Cape Town.

Professor Lestrade said the future of their languages was one of the most important cultural problems to the Bantu people.

To survive, a language should possess sufficient speakers to produce a varied literature which could perform a cultural service to the community. It should also be sufficiently adaptable to produce a literature. Venda and Shangaan-Tonga were spoken by a few people, and would probably play an inferior part in the lives of the people who spoke them.

The remaining two groups of languages—Nguni and Sotho—which had a sufficient number of speakers, were in danger of extinction because three written forms of each existed and the allegiance of speakers was wasteful and divided.

The number of written forms could be reduced by eliminating two forms in each group, or by fusing forms into one more or less artificial language. Something like fusion was taking place in towns and efforts had been made to evolve unified forms, but only partly successfully.

7-7-45

It was possible to carry out large-scale linguistic unification with speed, smoothness and success as the unification in the Philippines before the Japanese invasion had shown. There a high degree of efficient unification had been reached.

1c-1945

Health- Africa

Magazine Announces Cure For African Sleeping Sickness

Richmond Times 1-19-45
Richmond, Va.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—(AP)—A new drug which appears to cure African sleeping sickness, and actually has cured the early cases so far tried, was announced today in Science, official journal of American scientists.

African sleeping sickness has been so nearly incurable that large areas of that continent are not habitable. A sleeping sickness cure would be important to the postwar world.

Today's report was made by Dr. Harry Eagle, of the venereal disease research and postgraduate training center of the United States Public Health Service, Johns Hopkins University. The drug is a combination of arsenic and butyric acid. 1-19-45

Arsenic in various forms has long been tried on sleeping sickness, in fact that is where Paul Ehrlich got his tip to try his magic bullets of arsenic on syphilis. But the arsenics were toxic to humans, and some of the trypanosomes, the cause of sleeping sickness, were resistant to arsenic.

The new drug destroyes the types of germs which resisted arsenic. It is not toxic to man in the amounts needed to treat sleeping sickness. Last Summer it was tried on a wide scale in collaboration with the sleeping sickness services of The Gold Coast, Nigeria, The Belgian Congo and the British forces in West Africa. 1-19-45

More than 200 patients have been treated to date. Dr. Eagle concludes that there is reason to believe the drug gives definite cure in two weeks, in early cases where the brain and nervous system has not become involved. It is not promising for the cases of nervous system infection. It has worked well on some forms of animal sleeping sickness, but not on all forms. Inability of animals to survive has been one of the important economic handicaps of the sleeping sickness areas.

Cure Reported For African Sleep Malady

Courier Journal
Louisville, Ky.
1-19-45

Arsenic, Butyric Acid Proving Successful

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MORO SULTAN HONORS NEGRO ARMY DOCTORS

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier 11-24-45

By TOM CARRIG, Associated Negro Press Foreign Correspondent

ZAMBOANGA, Mindanao, P. I.—(ANP)—Two brown American army medics, members of the 318th Medical Battalion that had fought its way to the Philippines from Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Guinea and the Netherlands East India, were honored recently by the powerful Mohommedan Moros sultan for their relentless effort to save the lives of the Moros people.

The two army doctors honored by Sultan Janinal Abirin were Capt. Robert McDaniel and Dunbar Gibson, both graduates of Howard University's school of medicine. The splendor of the banquet, held in the throne room of the Mohammedan monarch's new temporary Spanish-style palace, equaled the scenes of "Kismet" or the colorful tales of the "Arabian Nights," the guests revealed.

They had to pass long lines of Moro guerrilas before they entered the lavishly decorated throne room that had been converted temporarily into a hugh banquet hall where they first met Sen. Hadgi Buto Rasal, a member of the Philippine Congress and personal attache to the genial, 70-year-old white-haired ruler of the Japanese-hating Moros, his imperial highness Sultan Jainal Abirin.

20-COURSE DINNER

After formal greetings, the sultan ordered that his guests be served immediately. Moros waiters entered laden with food that consisted of a 20-course dinner. Two hours later, the sultan arose. He said:

"My friends, both of you know that for four long years, the Japanese have driven us like criminals into the hills to let us find either death or such salvation as there was. They left us without homes, food or medical supplies. Our arms were those which our forebearers used and which we use even today.

"But thanks to America, and in this instance, to the medical supply branch of this huge army, Jole's people are getting well. Our wounded are healing; disease is not now rampant among our peoples. So to our two brown American brothers, who have done such remarkable work among us, today we do honor. 11-24-45

GIVEN SWORDS

"So, Captain Drs. McDaniel and Gibson, we bear you the seal and the freedom of the Moro Empire," the ruler continued. "Please accept these Moro weapons of our forefathers as a symbol of our faith in American justice and generosity. And may these two Japanese swords we bring you be a reminded that never, while one Moro lives, will he ever bow down to the Japanese."

When the 318th landed on Mindaneo, the two medical captains had been ordered to assist Philippine doctors on Jolo by Commanding Officer Warren Schell. The Philippine medics were Capt. Lentock, Dr. Tating Sangula and Dr. Rosaria Golphin. With Capts. Gloster Smith and Leonard Martin, Schell had a receiving station for all casualties. Lieut. Willie Blount was ambulance officer while Lieutenant Harris (his first name is Lieutenant) was given the job of keeping supplies moving to the Jolo forces.

WOMAN RETURNS TO ASSIST LEPERS

Birm, Ala. Age-Herald

LONDON — Jean Lamplugh, a young woman doctor, has just returned from leave at her home in Birmingham, England, to her lonely leper station in Northern Rhodesia, where she was for years the only white woman in an area with 12,000.

At her hospital on Chilubi Island in Lake Bangweolo, she and 18 native orderlies look after 120 patients housed in two wards, six huts built of dried bricks and some huts left in an abandoned village. Southward stretch the endless swamps where Livingstone died. 11-29-45

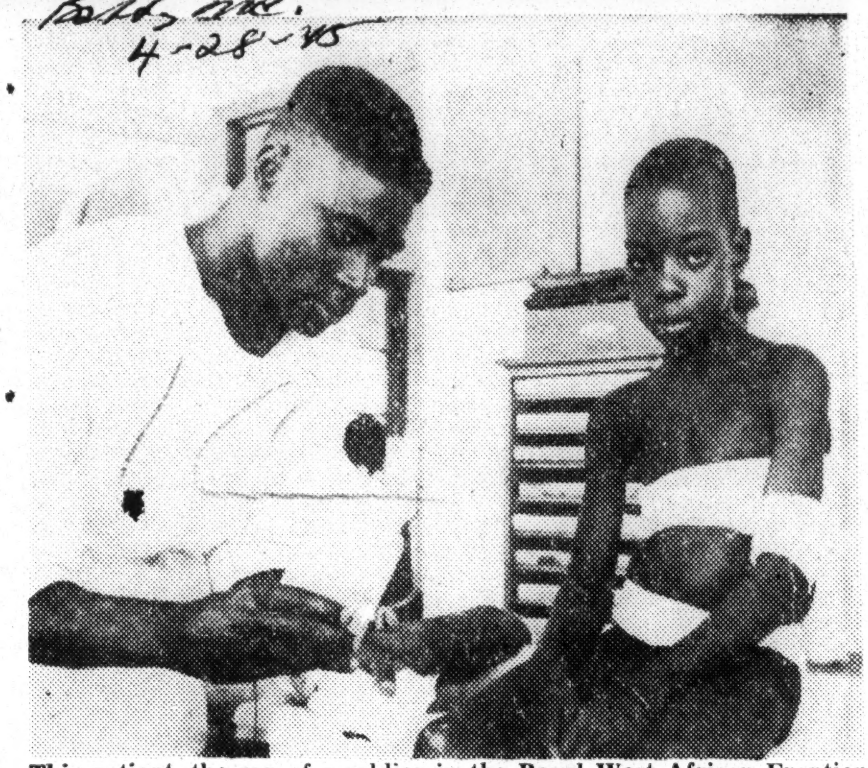
Penicillin, Made in Africa, Now Used to Cure Tropical Diseases

AFRO-American



This is the "factory" where a crude but serviceable penicillin is made in the Army Medical Research Unit at Accra, Gold Coast, W. Africa. Cpl. T. Pintoe, a highly trained laboratory assistant, inspects the bottles in which the mould is kept. At the 37th General Hospital in Accra, medical officers of the Royal West African Frontier Force have been experimenting with the wonder drug since early 1944.

Baltimore
4-28-45



This patient, the son of a soldier in the Royal West African Frontier Force, is suffering from a skin disease which can be cured by penicillin. An African medical orderly is shown applying penicillin ointment at the Accra medical research unit.

Woman Studies Nursing Here To Aid African Mothers, Babies

Richmond Times Dispatch Richmond, Virginia

9-13-45

The high mortality rate of mothers and children in the African jungles inspired a native woman, Miss Ellen Miamai Moore, to spend eight years in the United States studying maternal and child care to take back to her people.

Miss Moore, who has been studying at the Medical College of Virginia, and now is working with the Instructive Visiting Nurses' Association here, plans to return to her native Liberia after Christmas. The Liberian government, she said, has granted her about 12 acres of land in Karkata, a large Kpssie (tribal) section, where, with the help of American contributions, she hopes to build a $37,620 maternal and child health center.

Writes Bishop

Deploring the African conditions under which women have their babies on the ground, "like animals," and children die right and left from infection, Miss Moore said that her desire to help was formulated when she saw a baby killed by a powerful drug. The tribe had decided that the child had stomach trouble and had stuffed it with a strong drug made from leaves. The baby died after convulsive seizures.

Born in the village of Talla, which is the Congo word meaning "to look," Miss Moore was raised in an Episcopal School for girls after the death of both parents. Finding the name of Bishop Samuel Grimes, presiding bishop of the Pentacostal Assemblies of the World, in a copy of "The Christian Outlook," she wrote to him seeking educational opportunity to help the African women. Soon after that, Miss Moore was sent to the United States wheer she has received extensive educational training.

9-13-45

Miss plans to teach mothers such means of sanitation as the simple ways to feed a child. (She said that the African woman now holds the child's hand and nose and packs the food into the mouth.) She will instruct mothers in self care during pregnancy. (The African midwife sticks to the old theory of "eating for two.") And she will tell of the value of clean rags for the newborn baby rather than powdered weeds.

She also hopes to establish a child care center, where working mothers may leave their children during the day. At present, she said, mothers carry their children to the field, one on the back, another in the arms, and several trudging on behind.

"I have surrendered my life to this work and I mean to help African mothers even if I have to do it under a tree," Miss Moore said.

Africa

Health

HEALTH SURVEY OF BANTU SCHOOL CHILDREN

FOOD DEFICIENCY CAUSING MANY DISEASES

Johannesburg

A Health Survey of Bantu schoolchildren was recently undertaken by the Union Department of Public Health and the report of the investigators was published in Manpower, the organ of the National Advisory Council for Physical Education.

Discussing the objects of the survey, which was undertaken by a medical officer, Dr. S. L. Kark, and an anthropologist, Mr. H. le Riche, the report refers to the lack of vital statistics, essential for the application of preventive medicine, so far as the Bantu are concerned. There is no system of compulsory notification of births and deaths among the rural Bantu, and if such compulsion was general the records would be inadequate in view of the medical facilities available, for the cause of death would often remain undetermined.

There is considerable evidence that the Bantu are very commonly afflicted with preventible diseases, such as tuberculosis, syphilis, malaria, bilharzia and those resulting from food deficiencies. This fails to convey an accurate picture, and several of these diseases are often found in one person.

It was this that decided the scope of the survey. The main aim had been to assess the malnutrition resulting from diet deficiency, but in view of the limited knowledge of other factors, it would have been unwise to lose the opportunity for a full health survey.

About 7,000 schoolchildren were examined, roughly 800 in each of the following districts: Pretoria, Witzieshoek, Bloemfontein, Qumbu, Kentani, Maritzburg, Nqutu, Letaba, and Bochem (Transvaal). The groups were compared with each other, and, in the case of the physical examination, with European children examined at Pretoria by Mr. le Riche in 1940.

SMALLER THAN EUROPEANS

The investigators point out that as the children examined were those of parents who could afford to send their children to school, their health was probably considerably better than that of the average of Bantu children.

The results of the physical examination showed that both Bantu boys and girls are significantly shorter and lighter than European boys and girls. In the nine-years-old group the difference was 19.4 per cent. with boys, and 18.67 with girls in weight, and 6.53 and 6.87 per cent. respectively in height. Other measurements confirm the conclusion that Bantu children are considerably smaller than white children of the same ages.

Discussing this, Mr. le Riche says it might be considered that such inferiority is due entirely to racial differences. This might be true if we were certain that races are not changing in size. Certain races are becoming taller, heavier and bigger, and the only reasonable conclusion one can come to is that this is due to an improved environment in general and good feeding in particular.

BAD ENVIRONMENT

"One cannot ascribe the smallness of the Bantu children to hereditary factors until these children have been subjected to an optimum environment. As far as one can see, the environment of the Bantu children is very bad, their food is inadequate in amount and quality, and as a race their morbidity rates are high."

The results of the health and nutrition portion of the survey are given in considerable detail for each area. The main conclusion of the investigators is that there is a multiplicity of factors which adversely influence the health and nutrition of Bantu school children. Children of all districts manifested signs which are known to result from specific food factor deficiencies.

These include diseases of the skin, mouth and eye, skeletal abnormalities and goitre, which provide evidence that diseases arising from vitamin and mineral deficiency are common, particularly those resulting from a shortage of vitamins A and B. The pellagra group of diseases is on the increase and already constitutes a major nutritional and public health problem in this country.

There are many more general signs of food deficiency, says the report. "The thin, round-shouldered, flat-chested, pot-bellied child with spindly legs was such a common sight that it can only be concluded that many were on the borders of starvation. The problem is thus not only one of providing this or that particular food factor, but rather a need for a general increase of all foodstuffs which will tend to build up a healthy Bantu population, averting starvation as well as the many more specific deficiency diseases."

AN ALARMING PROBLEM

It would be incorrect to believe that all the malnutrition and ill health observed was due to poor diet alone, the investigators state. The common occurence of other preventible disease, very often in one and the same child, makes it impossible to dogmatise about the influence of each of these factors.

All areas showed a high incidence of syphilis, and there was little difference in this respect between urban and rural children. In all nine areas more than 23 per cent. of the children were affected. "Comment on this alarming proportion affected by syphilis is almost unnecessary. The effects were well in evidence throughout the survey, and it is no exaggeration to say that syphilis forms the biggest single public health problem facing those interested in the welfare of this country."

Chronic malaria was found in some areas, and in those districts its influence on the nutritional state of the population is considerable. The low sanitary standard of living is indicated by various parasitic diseases, such as bilharzia and tapeworm, and while the most prevalent infestation varied in different districts, the high incidence of one or the other is an indication of serious defetcs in the disposal of excreta and refuse.

Personal hygiene, as indicated by the common occurence of scabies and impetigo, is not of a very high standard. Contrary to common opinion, these diseases were much more prevalent in the rural than in urban areas. Other diseases found which affect the problem of general health and nutrition were chronic lung disease and signs of tuberculosis, trachoma, and preventable crippling, but anaemia was not as common as might have been expected.

ALL PREVENTABLE

All the above diseases, concludes the report, "form no small array of factors which are contrary to the maintenance of good health and nutrition. No amount of juggling can succeed in separating the influence of one as opposed to the others where they so commonly occur together.

"The outstanding fact is that they are all preventable. Science has given the necessary knowledge to eradicate, or at the very least considerably to reduce the occurance of these diseases. The ravages following upon rapid soil erosion, overcrowding, ignorance and poverty, are all within the bounds of control."

BILL ON HOSPITALS

West African P. lot

Medicos Will Have Meeting Today

One of the bills which will be tabled before the next session of the Legislative Council is the Control, Regulation and Registration of Private Hospitals Ordinance, which will give the Director of Medical Services power of control over hospitals established by private and qualified medical practitioners.

It is understood that the bill, which grants the Director of Medical Services wide and extensive powers, applies to private medical practitioners.

As a result of this all the private medical practitioners in Lagos, in and out of the ranks of the Association of Medical and Dental Practitioners, are today holding a full meeting on the bill.

The most important section of the proposed law is clause 13, which empowers the Director of Medical Services to make regulations for the institution, conduct, supervision and inspection of private hospitals, and for the following 16 specific provisions:

(a) Prescribing any matter or thing required to be prescribed under the provisions of this ordinance.

(b) Prescribing the standard of sanitary arrangements.

(c) Regulating the accommodation for patients and nursing staff.

(d) Regulating the accommodation and equipment for operating theatres, laboratories, sterilisation and disinfection, pharmacies and other similar purposes.

(e) Prescribing the qualifications and training of the nursing staff and the number of qualified nurses to be employed in proportion to the number of beds available.

(f) Regulating the preparation and storage of food and drugs and, where drugs are dispensed in a private hospital, the number of qualified pharmacists to be employed.

(g) Regulating the arrangements for disinfection and the prevention of the spread of infection.

(h) Prescribing the arrangements to be made for the prevention and control of fire and for the safety of patients and staff in the event of fire.

(i) Prescribing the records and statistics to be kept and the mode of keeping them.

(j) Prescribing the registers and records to be kept in respect of patients.

(k) Prescribing the notification of deaths, births, still births, miscarriages and abortions and also infectious diseases.

(l) Regulating the admission and discharge of patients.

(m) Prescribing the hours of work and working conditions for the nursing staff.

(n) Regulating general medical and domestic arrangements.

(o) Prescribing the records to be kept when a child born in a private hospital is discharged or removed therefrom.

(p) Prescribing penalties up to a maximum of £200 or six months' imprisonment or both such fine or imprisonment for offences against any of the regulations.

Negroes Form Personnel Of The U.S. Public Health Mission To Liberia

Lieutenant Colonel West Is Director

By JACOB BROWNE, Our Own Correspondent

MONROVIA, May 11. — The following personnel comprises the United States Public Health Mission to Liberia (USPHML):

Lieutenant-Colonel John B. West, Director.

Major Charles I. West, Executive Officer and Acting Director of Government Hospital.

H. B. Jordan, Administative Assistant.

Major Granville W. Woodson, Chief, Engineering Division.

Major Louis Middleton, Chief of Dental Services

Lieutenant Theresa Colwell, Acting Directress of U. S. Public Health Service Nursing Group.

Miss Vashti Hall, Acting Directress, School of Nursing.

Lieutenant Virginia Ford, Acting Directress, Public Health Nursing.

Mrs Inez Butler, Acting Assistant Directress of Nursing School.

Lieutenant Alma Jackson, Directress of Health Education.

Major Middleton is from New York City; is a graduate of the college department of Howard University, and the University of Illinois in dental surgery; has been an instructor in the New York Medical College at Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital; was Assistant Chief of Dental Services of the District Department of Health, in New York City.

Lieutenant Theresa Colwell is a graduate of Lincoln Hospital for Nurses and has done advanced study in nursing education at Columbia University and in Public Health at New York University; has done surgical nursing at Lincoln Hospital, worked for the New York City Health Department.

Lieutenant Virginia Ford is graduate nurse from the Kansas City General Hospital; studied public health at the University of Michigan; was recently employed in the State's Relations Division of the U. S. Public Service.

Lieutenant Alma Jackson is a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Union University, Master of Science (biology) from Atlanta University, and Master of Public Health from Michigan University.

She left a position as Health Education Secretary of the Hartford Tuberculosis Society, and is presently Director of Health Education.

All are Negroes.

Penicillin In Use Against Disease Peculiar To Brtish Guiana

GEORGETOWN, BRITISH GUIANA:— Penicillin has been used in a number of cases both in Georgetown Public Hospital and private homes.

The issue is strictly controlled by the local Medical Committee which, in response to Secretary of State's instructions that the drug should be used in the first instance for research in tropical diseases, has chosen abdominal filariasis as a suitable subject for experiment. This disease is peculiar to British Guiana, is frequently fatal and resistant to sulphanillamide drugs.

Full details of all cases treated locally must be forwarded to Penicillin Clinical Trials Committee in England.

Persons requring treatment are given priority allocation of Hospital beds and no extra charge is made. Private practitioners are issued with supplies if two members of the local control committee approve. The first shipment of 100 tubes of this drug arrived in British Guiana last December.

Liberian Government Makes Changes In Administration Of State Hospital

Public Works & Utilities Takes Over

By OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MONROVIA, March 27.— Noticing some new movement at the Liberian Government Hospital, the Pilot's Representative called on the Honourable J. Emery Knight, Secretary to the President of Liberia, for a statement for release to his paper.

The statement appearing hereunder is the first official pronouncement from the Executive Mansion on this score.

Mr Knight said:

"In accordance with letter of instructions issued by His Excellency the President the administration of the Liberian Government Hospital is transferred to the Department of Public Works and Utilities.

"Internal administrative functions shall vest in the Director of the United States Health Mission to Liberia.

"Both the Department of Public Works and Utilities and the United States Health Mission are to collaborate with the Liberian Bureau of Public Health and Sanitation."

Asked as to whether this disrobed the present Director of Sanitation, Dr Leo Sajous, a Haitian doctor, from his supervision of the hospital, he replied yes.

He went on to say that Dr John West, head of the United States Public Health Mission to Liberia, was now in charge of the hospital, and had been given all power to administer same.

Colonel West, who returned recently from a quick trip to America, has imported his brother, Major Charles West, who also is a doctor and surgeon, and he is at the hospital.

Drs West are Negroes.

Colonel West is well known in Liberia as he was the Medical Officer with the first set of American troops sent to Liberia.

His name was also mentioned for the post of Director of Public Health and Sanitation, when Dr Fuszek died, but for some reasons, he declined.

He has also seen service in Ethiopia and was the personal physician to His Majesty Haile Selassie.

Liberians welcome this change, as the former management had outlived its usefulness, and the hospital was on a steady decline due to lack of interest and poor management.

It is hoped that some way will soon be found to transfer the entire sanitation set up under this health service so that some measure might be advanced to rid us of the mosquito and the dirt within the city environs.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH ASSOCIATION RECOMMEND EXTENSION OF YABA IDH FOR MORE TB PATIENTS

After touring the African Hospital last Thursday in connection with their week of cleanliness programme, members of the Medical and health Association have suggested that the sanatorium at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Yaba, should be extended to cater for more patients suffering from tuberculosis.

This and other recommendations drawn up by the body will, it is understood, be forwarded soon to Dr. J.W.P. Harkness, Director of Medical Services.

The party was conducted round the African Hospital by Miss Aret Ekim, a nurse, who first of all showed the visitors some of the modern drying and washing processes used in the laundry dept.

Following this, the party inspected the surgical and medical wards of the hospital.

Due to the lack of vacancies in the TB sanatorium at Yaba many patients had to be found accommodation along verandahs of the hospital in Lagos.

Other places of interest next visited included duty rooms, the operating theatre, lecture rooms, the X ray room and the out-patients theatre for out patients.

Miss Ekim explained to the visitors that through Miss Bennett's recommendation private dressing rooms had been provided for both male and female nurses before that no amenity was enjoyed by them. After touring the hospital, the party considered that certain places in the laundry needed more attention and that the method of washing plates and dishes was not satisfactory.

The association paid tribute to Miss M. Bennett, Senior Nursing Sister, for her assiduous work and progressive changes she had made in the hospital.

Before the inspection tour actually began, the honoured nurse donated the sum of 10s to the association in appreciation of their efforts and interest in the medical profession.

West African Pilot Lagos
5-12-45

Stettinius Stops Off In Liberia, Sees Work On Negro Health Mission

Chicago Defender chic., Ill.

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON — The United States Public Health mission now stationed in Liberia bids fair to perform a service of tremendous magnitude not only through the initiation of a program of communicable disease control, but by performing a link through which American-Liberian relations may be strengthened. 2-24-45

The meaning of this friendship can be estimated to some degree by the fact that Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius en route home from the Crimean conference stopped off in Liberia. The Secretary's visit gives renewed emphasis to the importance which Liberia has in the eyes of the American people, and gives further evidence of the friendship between the United States and its good neighbor Liberia. 2-24-45

Dr. John Baldwin West of Washington, D.C., director of the mission, recently returned to America for additional medical and nursing staff, was loud in his praise for the cooperation given the mission by President William V. S. Tubman, the Liberian government and people.

Dr. West said, "No director of a mission could ask for better cooperation than has been provided by the Liberian government."

Tubman Asks Mission

President Tubman, whom Dr. West describes as "one of the most cooperative men I have ever contacted in government," is the first of Liberian presidents to take advantage of the services of American technicians and specialists made available to the Liberian government under public law.

President Tubman had been in office exactly seven days when he requested the first three missions. 2-24-45

Chief among the problems facing the medical mission, which has been in Liberia for approximately three months, is to bring under control three communicable diseases which endanger the life and health of the Liberian people and loom as a threat to the health of America. These are malaria, dysentary, and sleeping sickness. Combating these diseases will require an extensive program of control through sanitation, education and medical treatment.

Another disease, borne by the water, which Dr. West feels will probably cause a serious health problem following the U. S.-Japanese war, is that of schistosomiasis which is transmitted to the body through the skin, causing severe hemorrhage of the bladder leading to body destruction. 2-24-45

Malaria Problem

Malaria, which Dr. West describes as a disease which "affects more people and kills more people than any other disease in the world" must be controlled at the source which is the mosquito.

Many of the malaria-bearing house bred mosquitoes who feed on man have been found as far up the Atlantic Coast as Florida and Louisiana, he said.

While at present confined to the interior of Liberia by a natural barrier, the tse-tse fly which carries the sleeping sickness disease must be brought under the control of artificial barriers as well, Dr. West asserted.

While for the first three months the mission has confined itself to survey, actual control is expected to get underway in the next few months. Dr. West stressed the necessity of careful and extensive surveys to avoid mistakes in construction. 2-24-45

However, early plans call for screening the Liberian hospital and initiating a small drainage program. Also a control program of adult mosquitoes is anticipated shortly.

The Liberian government is providing certain facilities, and have allocated $20,000 toward the program. They are giving personal and transportation to the best of their ability.

Only Four Roads

So far the mission has penetrated the interior for 70 miles, traveling by foot, as there are only four roads in the country and these are short. Constructed of dirt and covered over with an aluminum dust they prove quite a problem in the rainy season which averages more than 190 inches a year. Although these "foreign witch doctors" are a new experience for the Liberian people in the interior they follow directions unusually well, Dr. West said. Void of any method for purifying water and disposing of waste, the task is exceedingly difficult. Moreover all instructions must be memorized because of their inability to read and write. 2-24-45

Liberia's health facilities now consist of one army hospital, three American missionary hospitals, one provided by the Liberian government, and one which the Firestone Rubber company maintains for their employes, although in case of emergency any Liberian will be admitted for treatment.

At present the American hospital is staffed with Dr. West, two associates, two American nurses, Inez B. Butler and Eunice V. Hall, and three Liberian nurses who were trained in foreign countries. Additional medical and nursing staff are now en route to Liberia, the U. S. Public Health Service has just announced. These include: Surgeon Charles I. West, Washington, D.C., brother of the director; Alma Jackson, assistant sanitation; Virginia Ford, assistant nurse officer; and Theresa Colwell, assistant nurse officer.

Dr. Louise R. Middleton, dental surgeon, will join the mission at a later date. 2-24-45

The Liberian hospital is staffed wholly with Liberians and Haitians. Some Liberian girls are trained in their own school of nurse training. "While the products cannot be compared with our American nurses they do a good job with limited education and facilities," Dr. West said.

Major West Reports for Liberian Health Mission

AFRO-American Bdt, Md.

2-24-45

WASHINGTON

Returning to Washington after three months spent in Liberia as head of the U.S. Public Health Service Mission, Maj. John B. West told a press conference on Friday that the West African republic offers unlimited opportunities for both wealth and service.

Senior surgeon for the mission which arrived in Liberia last November, Major West said that up to now much of the work has been in the nature of a survey to determine the health and sanitation needs of the country.

While a great deal of the work of the fourteen-member commission will be devoted to the establishment of water purification, sewage disposal and other sanitation facilities, in Monrovia, no small part of it will be done in the interior or "bush" country.

2-24-45

Malaria Control

Work done in the interior, which is accessible only by jungle footpath, will be concerned chiefly with the control of flies an dother carriers of malaria and sleeping sickness, Major West said. 2-24-45

Pointing out the need for extensive work in preventive and remedial medicine as well as in health education, Major West cited an urgent need for medical and nursing personnel as well as for establishment of adequate modern hospitalities facilities.

One of the steps planned by the Commission in co-operation with the Liberian Government is the establishment of a frequency modulation radio system over which health and other types of educational broadcasts will be relayed to the people.

In describing the country, Major West said that it is some 43,000 square miles in area with a population of approximately 2,000,000. It has about 190 inches of rainfall per year and the temperature ranges between 45 and 100 degrees.

Extremely rich in natural resources and closer to the Western Hemisphere than any other part of Africa, Liberia is in a position to offer much needed for the rebuilding of war torn Europe in the postwar period, he said.

Questioned concerning the attitude of the Liberian government toward the migration of colored Americans, Major West declared:

Want Useful Migrants

"Liberia welcomes any one, white or colored, who has a contribution to make. Whoever puts anything into Liberia will be certain to get much more out."

Major West described President William V. S. Tubman of Liberia as one of the "most sincere and co-operative" government officials whom he had ever encountered.

Praises Tubman

"The present government is very popular with the people," he said, "and President Tubman has been the first to take advantage of Public Law 63 with an aim to bettering the condition of the country and its people."

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Public Law 63 is a law passed by the Congress of the United States which authorizes the lending of government technical and other personnel to Liberia by and at the expense of the United States Government upon the request of Liberia.]

U. S. Liberian Mission Rapped

The Chicago Defender
Chicago, Illinois

Criticize Health Program Personnel

11-17-45

MONROVIA — (ANP) — Considerable criticism is being leveled at members of the United States Health mission sent here to supervise the setting up of a public health program for Liberia.

So acute did the situation become, that local newspapers have published reports stating that at the government hospital operated by the mission, the patients were being fed pig's feet for breakfast, dinner and supper on several days. The published charge said that food was often improperly prepared and that patients in some instances had to get their food from outside.

Another charge is that the nurses, most of whom were recruited from New York City, behave in an unseeming manner in their quarters on the uppermost floor of the hospital. It is said that considerable dancing, singing and revelry goes on in the quarters, disturbing the patients who are located just beneath. The music by radio is relayed to their quarters by an amplifier.

The most serious allegation, however, had to do with the administrative head, Dr. John B. West, who resigned a lieutenant colonelcy in the U. S. Army to assume charge of the public health mission, said to be a brainchild of his.

Import Ammunition

The claim has been made that Dr. West ordered 400 cases of ammunition imported into Liberia and that during one month quite a number of the Liberian workers in the hospital were paid off in cartridges instead of cash. Cartridges are easily salable here but it is pointed out that importing the ammunition without license or duty was in direct competition with local merchants and amounted to unfair trade practice.

According to the duty which the law prescribes, it is said that the duty on the ammunition should have amounted to about $4,000. The law which says that goods must be imported by permit has been violated according to local complaints. The law says that under such circumstances the goods must be confiscated and the guilty person fined.

Dr. West, head of the mission which consists of several doctors, a public health worker, and a number of nurses who came from the United States, is away from Liberia at this time. Reports indicate that he is back in the United States for hospitalization, presumably in New York City where his wife and family are residing.

Dr. West has had previous experience in foreign public health problems. For a brief period after the close of the last war he served in Ethiopia in such a capacity. He has had charge of the Harlem Public Health clinic and just before joining the army medical corps early in World War II he had served as superintendent of Provident hospital, Chicago.

1c-1945 Africa Medical

MEDICOS IN NIGERIA

West African Pilot

There Is One Doctor For Every 81,000

There are 271 medical and eight dental practitioners throughout the whole of Nigeria serving a population of about 22 million people or more, according to the latest issue of the Nigeria Gazette.

1-26-45

Of the 271 medical practitioners, 212 have qualifications which are recognized by the British Medical Association, 21 hold qualifications from European, American and Canadian universities, and 38 hold diplomas awarded by the Nigeria School of Medicine.

There are 84 African medical practitioners, 20 of whom are in private practice and 64 are in the service of the Medical Department as Medical Officers and Assistant Medical Officers.

Of the 84 African medical practitioners 46 were qualified in British universities and 38 were qualified at the Nigeria School of Medicine. 1-26-45

Of the 20 African medical practitioners who are in private practice, 16 are products of British universities and four are products of the Nigeria School of Medicine.

12985

Of the eight dentists one is an African, one is a West Indian of African descent, two are either Syrian or Lebanese, two are British, one is Greek and one is American. 1-26-45

The 21 medical practitioners holding qualifications from foreign universities are graduates of the following universities:

Europe 11 (Bologna one, Wurzburg four, Liege one, Frankfurt one, Leipzig one, Copenhagen one, Freiburg one, Breslau one);

American 9 (Boston one, Illinois one, Jefferson one, Minnesota one, Oklahoma one, Chicago one, Texas two, Baylor one);

Canada 1 (Toronto).

The eight dentists were qualified in the following universities

British 3 (Glasgow two, London 1).

American 1 (Howard one, Chicago one, Rochester one, Baylor one).

Hungarian (Athens one), Syrian (Beirut one).

It is significant that for every 81,000 people, there is one medical practitioner in Nigeria, and for every 2,750,000 people there is one dentist.

AFRICAN WELFARE WORK

Dr. Martin Wald

In 1902 he began work at Lovedale, where medical work had been in abeyance during the South African War. He at once reopened the Victoria Hospital with 16 beds. Here he worked for 35 years with only one break in 1923 for a holiday in Scotland. He was single-handed until his daughter joined him in 1925. When he retired in 1937 there were 175 beds, and the Lovedale hospital had become famous throughout Africa. 3-10-45

He founded the South African Health Society in 1909 and it immediately began to publish its health magazine. Dr. McVicar used the magazine to make known current advances in nutrition, control of infectious diseases and other matters to help Africans improve their health. It would be hard to assess the effect such continual educational propaganda must have had on more than a generation of Africans emerging from the superstitions of animism. 3-10-45

"Not only are his contributions to current thought on a great national problem invaluable, because they come from one with a lifetime of first-hand experience," the statement concludes, "but their incisive quality and eager acceptance of new ideas are a clear indication of the vitality and youth of his mind."

1c-1945 Africa

US Public Health Mission Directs The Opening Of Nursing School In Gambia Aims To Relieve Shortage Of Nurses

By JACOB BROWNE, Our Own Correspondent

MONROVIA, May 8.—The opening of the school of nursing at the Government Hospital under the direction of the United States Public Health Mission to Liberia (USPHML) was accomplished last month.

On April 2, the new class of 10 students entered upon a period of orientation.

This project, requested by Colonel John B. West for the Liberian Government Hospital and granted by the State Department of the United States of America, aims to relieve the serious shortage of nurses throughout Liberia.

In the development of a public health programme in any country nursing always plays an important part.

Doctors who may come into a country are greatly handicapped if competent nursing assistance is not available.

On the other hand, an adequate, well trained group of nurses helps any health programme to develop its best potentialities.

It was recognised by the Government of Liberia that the number of nurses with training comparable to that received in other leading countries was far too small to take care of the health problems of Liberia.

The realization of the inadequacy of the number of nurses available led to the request for assistance in the development of a school of nursing which would graduate nurses with training comparable to that which was received heretofore only in foreign countries.

In August, 1944, a request was sent to the Division of Cultural Co-operation of the Department of State, of the United States, for a grant for the establishment of this programme.

In September of last year, this grant, amounting to 20,000 dollars, later increased to 30,000 for the first year, was approved to be used for equipment, personnel, transportation, etc.

The direction of the school was assigned to Miss E. Vashti Hall, Registered Nurse, Acting Assistant Director of Nursing, under the direction of Major Charles I. West, assisted by Mrs Inez Butler, R.N.

Courses will be given by all members of the mission.

The plan is to take 10 students each year, representing all sections of Liberia, and to train them for three years in the practical and theoretical aspects of nursing, this to be accomplished through actual ward operating room experience, supplemented by thorough classroom instruction.

After a six months probationary period, those students who have proved themselves competent will be permitted to wear caps.

Student nurses will be provided with room, board, and uniforms, and will be given a small stipend for personal expenses.

The attempt is being made to provide pleasant, home-like, and healthful quarters for the students.

Each of these students will be expected to return to the area from which she came, there to practice her profession.

Thus far, the quarters for the nurses have been prepared.

This has involved the thorough renovation of the third floor of the hospital.

Four students are accommodated in a room.

Each girl is provided with a new mattress and bed net.

A bathroom has been added for their use.

Fresh paint and gay curtains add to the cheerfulness of the surroundings.

There is a pleasant dining room where well balanced meals are served.

The new class is undergoing a period of orientation, following which class work will begin.

The curriculum for the first year includes: anatomy, physiology, bacteriology, medical nursing, surgical nursing, first aid and bandaging, nutrition and dietetics, chemistry, mathematics, English, housekeeping, and nursing ethics.

The first class of students include:

Grace Brownell (Cape Palmas), Vesta Collins (Cape Mount), Diana Dueh (Grand Cess), Viola Howe (Cape Palmas), Mai Etta Mason (Grand Bassa), Letitia Scott (Cape Palmas), Comfort Simpson (Monrovia), Sarah Snetter (Monrovia), Jessina Simmons (Caldwell — St. Paul's River), Beatrice Togba (Sinoe County), and Adeline Weaver (Monrovia)

Nigeria Is Promised Three Nursing Schools

According to the Honourable J. W. P. Harkness, Director of Medical Services, the Medical Department had long since considered the advisability of opening a Nursing School in Nigeria, but it has now been decided that three Nursing Schools be opened, one at Lagos, one in the Eastern Provinces, and one perhaps in the Northern Provinces.

These schools will give preliminary training to persons desirous of becoming nurses in order to determine their aptitudes and initiative for the profession.

The nursing students, on the other hand, will be given every necessary facilities, to make them know and understand their work.

On the whole, Dr Harkness said, the department is doing all that lies in its hand, to make the nursing profession as interesting as ever and student will be given a fair chance for unlimited development.

Finally, he revealed that a commission to probe into the Colonial Nursing Scheme has been formed.

Details are to be released on the matter soon.

Health V.D.

1c-1945

Free Clinic For Venereal Disease

THOUGH we cannot over-emphasise the ravages of war at the frontlines, let us not, pray, be blind to the scourges of the eternal conflict between man and disease. The slow death meted out by the unseen bacteria is equally as disastrous to the peace and survival of man. 3-22-45

The guns of the European war zones may indeed be silenced forever, but men will still be felled by incessant attacks of disease. Just as in the war of mechanical ingenuity, those who survive from the bacterial war sometimes return as deformed atrocities which, in themselves, should alienate war and man forever. We cannot afford to relax in the battle against the unseen enemies of the human body.

Bearing this all important fact in mind, it was with great pleasure that we received the announcement that a special free clinic is now open in the African Hospital, Lagos, for treatment of venereal disease cases. We honour this move on the part of the Medical Department and at the same time assure the Director of Medical Services that this project is specially commendable. It is commendable because it not only offers free service to the ailing underdog, but also combines character and the true doctrine of democracy with the practice of medicine. 3-22-45

We shall want more of this spirit in the relationship between government and the people. For only through such straightforward and selfless policy can the confidence of the people of this country be invariably reposed in the governing machinery. No doubt to win the war against the death penetration of bacteria the state must be prepared to carry out a vast programme of reforms in the practice of medicine. The free clinic now opened in the African Hospital is a glimpse into the desirable new dawn. Let us carry on in this humane way and make science the slave of man for his mere asking.

12405

W. African Engineers Lay Out 70-Mile Long Road Across The Arakan In Burma

1-19-45 West African Pilot

GHQ, WA.—"The Cappter" a magazine of the Royal Engineers, published in England, carries in a recent issue a full page tribute to the West African Engineers who were responsible for building the famous "West African Way."

This was the road across the mountains of the Arakan, a road which had previously been thought impracticable. 1-19-45

"The problem of whether this road was possible or not had already been tackled by several senior Indian Army Engineers, and their verdict was an emphatic "NO" says the writer.

"But the West Africans decided it could be done and they got to work. L2985

"Never have pick and shovel been used with more vigour.

"Seventy miles of road were made in two months and were passible to jeeps and fifteen-hundred weights as far as the Kaladan River.

"Of the two field companies at work on it—one Sierra Leone and one Gold Coast—honours were evenly shared. 1-19-45

"The West African sapper is essentially a jack of all trades and must be prepared to do anything which at a more accessible front would be the job of specialists.

"How the Africans could work!

"It's actually a fact that a certain defaulter's daily task was to pick and shovel ten cubic yards of heavy earth; and he did it in seven hours!" 1-19-45

On another occasion a problem arose as to how to carry some heavy folding boat equipment.

"The answer was the usual one to African transportation problem — head loads.

"No one who does not know the African can possibly believe that that equipment was actually carried over hills 1,000 feet high on men's heads.

"Forty men would stand round a boat, lift it on to their heads and stroll off like some gigantic centipede for a mile or so before resting and going on again."

Concluding, the writer says that the achievements of the West African Engineers were made possible by teamwork.

"Teamwork which began with first-class leadership, was superbly backed up by the loyal support of Europeans, and was finally cemented by the firm, unstinted obedience of the Africans. 1-19-45

"All this, with the African's great strength, had seen us through."

One Hundred Thousand West Africans Are Serving Under Lord Mountbatten

L2985 West African Pilot

War Office Releases Ban At Last

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent 3-17-45

LONDON.— Until now, military security prevented me from disclosing the number of African troops recruited from Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and the Gambia fighting against the Japanese in Burma.

The ban has been lifted by the War Office, and I am able to state that over 100,000 Africans are serving in the West African Expeditionary Force as part of Lord Mountbattan's South-East Asia Command. 3-17-45

Some of the troops constituting the 82nd West African Division are fighting their way into the heart of Burma on the Arakan front.

Apart from these West Africans, an equally large contingent of East Africans from Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia are also in Burma with the Royal East Africa King's Rifles, one of the crack colonial armies which saw service in Abyssinia, Madagascar and the Middle East before they were transferred to the Burma front. 3-17-45

The African troops are all under white officers.

There is only one black commissioned officer attached to the Royal West African Frontier Force.

He is Lieutenant Seth K. Anthony, from the Gold Coast.

Lieut. Anthony received his commission in West Africa and came to England for special training at Sandhurst, the British "West Point," before he took up his duties in Burma, where he has distinguished himself and has been mentioned in official dispatches. 3-17-45

With the campaign against the Japanese well under way, I understand that new contingents of coloured troops not only from East and West Africa, but from the Caribbean area, who completed their training in the United States, will soon take up action in Burma.

Lieut-General Brocas Burrows, Commander-in-Chief of the West African forces and the Duke of Devonshire, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, left London recently for India where they will hold military conferences with field commanders to make arrangements for additional coloured troops who will be assigned a foremost place in driving the Japanese out of Burma. 3-17-45

100,000 W. Africans Are Serving In Asia

West African Pilot L2985

SEAC, Feb. 25 —There are now about 100,000 British West African soldiers serving in South East Asia and India Commands.

The West African 82nd division is in action with the 15th Indian corps in Arakan. 2-26-45

Also serving are the 81st division and a large number of other units.

The 82nd division was formed in Nigeria in October 1943 and is comprised largely of veteran troops from the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

A brigade from each of these colonies went through the East African and Abyssinian campaigns, fighting magnificently and taking part in the march into Addis Ababa.

There are many Rhodesian officers in the division but the majority of officers and non-commissioned officers are from United Kingdom regiments. 2-26-45

African Soldiers Get High Decorations

Gold Coast Independent

The following African soldiers serving with the French Army on all the various fronts were recently recommended for the Croix de Guerre for acts of bravery :— 1-12-45

Sergeant Sara Bicuna of French Guinea succeeded under heavy fire in breaching enemy mine defences and in putting out of action several German pill-boxes in a strongly defended locality in Western France. His powers of leadership and his courage were of the highest order.

Private Signa Sibi of Dahomey was the first to land on a certain part of the French coast and rushed through the beach minefields letting out a white tape to enable his comrades to cross safely. Later he voluntarily joined a group of British Royal Navy men in clearing German machine-gun nests. 1-13-45

Lieut Kanon Gulounou of French Guinea was taken by surprise by three German soldiers whilst on a liaison mission. Nevertheless he managed to get through by using the butt of his rifle on his executors.

Fifth Indian Division Troops Capture Village Of Mokshitwa

West African Pilot

SEAC, May 23 — Troops of the Fifth Indian Division have occupied the village of Mokshitwa, 14 miles north-west of Pegu. 5-24-45

One enemy position near Winkanein (two miles south-east of Shwegyin) was captured following artillery concentration.

On the road to Mawchi (east of Toungoo) there was artillery activity on both sides.

Selassie Meets Allies

ADDIS ABABA, Aug. 26 (UP).— The Ethiopian Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a communique today announcing that Emperor Haile Selassie had received American, Soviet, British and French representatives to discuss the coming London conference which will prepare peace terms for Italy.

The communique, issued just before the departure of U.S. Minister John J. Caldwell for the United States, said that Ethiopia "as the first and outstanding victim of purely Italian aggression" attached much importance to consideration of her reparation claims.

West African Soldiers In Action

NIGERIAN SPOKESMAN

NEW DELHI. — A one and a half mile hue and cry across the open fields of the lower Kaladan Valley, ended in five out of six of a hunted party of Japanese being killed by a West African patrol, writes a West African Forces Observer

The presence of the enemy was known and they were believed to be stragglers either from Akyab or the Mayu range

The West Africans, led by Captain Roy Stirling, M.B.E. of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, beat the high grass in line abreast

Finally the Japanese jumped up and ran

The Africans dashed after them shouting the Hausa equivalent of "After them boys"

The first Jap was shot through the head as he was struggling over a deep chasm 2-26-45

The African including those who could not swim, dashed into the water neck deep and continued the chase on the other side

Another of the enemy turned at bay and was bayonetted

Across the open country the chase went on and two more of the enemy were shot

The fifth, exhausted, turned on the Africans who were almost on him, took a grenade and blew himself up

NA 31065 Cpl. Dogo Yaro Ribba of Ribba, Kontagora Province, and serving as a regular in a Nigerian Battalion, saw the man commit hara kiri

"He looked as if he could go no further," said the Corporal

"He had been wounded in the leg, we were running up to take him prisoner when he took the grenade out

"He crouched over it, banged it down and in a second he was dead"

Two West African War Correspondents

Will Visit Troops In Burma Jungle

West African Pilot

Nigerian Government Votes £1,250

£2905

(According to the report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council of Nigeria which was laid on the table, last Monday, two West African journalists will be financed, wholly or in part, by the Government of Nigeria to visit West African troops in the South-East Asia Command) 3-21-45

The vote is classified under Head 45 of the 1945-46 Estimates of Expenditure ("War Measures") and the item is "43: Visit of African War Correspondents to South-East Asian Theatre of War."

The sum voted is £1,250. It is not indicated what the Nigerian Press Association or any interested newspaper group or organization will be called upon to shoulder, as part of the total expenditure. 3-21-45

It will be recalled that this newspaper had urged the desirability of posting Nigerian journalists to the various heatres of war, as war correspondents; it was even suggested that the Zik's Press Limited was prepared to shoulder the cost either in whole or in part. 3-21-45

At one time, during an official press conference in 1943, the Honourable Ernest Ikoli (then Managing Editor of a contemporary) was suggested as a likely candidate.

When he relinquished his connection with that contemporary, it was suggested that Mr Tony Enahoro (then Sub-Editor of this newspaper and now Editor of the Daily Comet) should be sent at the cost of the Associated Newspapers of Nigeria (i.e. the Zik Group of newspapers).

Now that the Government has voted £1,250 for this purpose, it will be up to the Nigerian Press Association and other interested organisations and individuals to give the matter detailed study so as to select suitable persons who should play an important part in raising the morale of Nigerian soldiers abroad and Nigerian civilians at home. 3-21-45

No matter what selection is made or the decision arrived at, it will be necessary for the Northern Provinces, which had provided by far a greater number of troops to the Royal West Africa Frontier Force, to be represented by one war correspondent and the Southern Provinces by one.

Nigerian Company Attacks Retreating Line Of Japanese Troops Before Dodan

West African Pilot

£2905

SEAC, Feb 21 — Men of a Nigerian company, in their first battle in Burma, performed many deeds of bravery before the town of Dodan, on the east bank of the Kalapanzin on the line of the enemy's retreat from Mayu and Akyab. 2-22-45

An officer said they fought with great courage and determination, in spite of suffering more casualties than they ever did in the East African campaign.

One sergeant, Moma Fort Lami (NA 28086) of Kano, seeing his officer shot by a sniper, went out to avenge him.

He moved across open paddy ground to the house from which the snipper was firing.

He reached it without being hit, threw a smoke bomb in and then set fire to the house.

After looking inside and seeing the dead body of the Jap, he carried his officer back to his own liner. 2-22-45

Another sniper was dealt with by Private Malabu Idrissa (NA 88771) of Malabu.

Spotting him in a tree, Malabu ran across and shot him dead from beneath the branches.

The body crashed down and Malabu, although under heavy fire, searched it and brought documents back with him.

Lance Corporal Ibrahim Tilla (NA 39914), of Bauchi, in another act of gallantry in this fight, seized his bren gun and although exposed to heavy fire dashed over open country to engage an enemy machine gun.

He was just in time to relieve the pressure on one threatened platoon which then continued its advance.

The 11th East African Division in Burma

Now Commanded by Major-General W. A. Dimoline

MAJOR-GENERAL W. A. DIMOLINE, C.B.E., M.C., who is now officially stated to have been in command of the 11th (East African) Division in Burma since February 20 last, was born in 1897 in Birkenhead. He served with the East Surrey Regiment on the Western Front from 1914 to 1919 (being twice mentioned in dispatches and awarded the M.C. and the Belgian Croix de Guerre), transferred in 1920 to the Royal Signals, and served in Iraq, Nigeria and India before going to Northern Rhodesia in 1937 as commander of the Northern Rhodesia Regiment, which appointment carried with it membership of the Legislative Council.



On the outbreak of this war he was appointed commander of the Northern Rhodesia sub-area, with the rank of colonel, but three months later he relinquished that post to take command of the 1st Battalion The Northern Rhodesia Regiment. Shortly afterwards he went to Nairobi as Chief Staff Officer to General Dickinson, G.O.C.-in-C., East Africa.

Active Service in East Africa and Madagascar

In 1941 he raised and commanded the 16th East African Infantry Brigade, and, in the first combined naval and military operation of the war in East Africa, took Assab with the 3/15 Punjabis. He served during the campaign in Ethiopia, commanding a brigade during the operations against Gondar and as commander of the Addis Ababa sub-area.

In May, 1942, he took the 22nd East African Brigade to Madagascar, and six months later signed the armistice with the Vichy French authorities. At one time during the campaign the brigade had advanced 360 miles in less than a fortnight, fighting four main actions and a number of minor engagements. Its fatal casualties in Madagascar were no more than five Europeans and 20 Africans killed. After this campaign Brigadier Dimoline said :—

" I consider the East African to be one of the finest soldiers for this kind of warfare that anyone could wish for. When he can be backed up by troops of European extraction, armoured cars and artillery, then I believe you have practically the ideal organization."

Brigadier Dimoline next commanded the 50th East African Brigade, and in April, 1944, went to the South East Asia Command to take over another East African brigade. His elder daughter is serving in Burma with the W.T.S. (E.A.) as a trooper.

Springbok Now Commands R.A.F. in East Africa

Brigadier H. G. Wilmott, C.B.E., South African Air Force, is now in command of the R.A.F. in East Africa, in the place of Air Vice Marshal Sir Brian Baker, who, after a very short period in command, has been made Senior Air Staff Officer at R.A.F. Headquarters in the Middle East.

The new A.O.C. was educated at the Diocesan College, Rondebosch, joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1918, and was commissioned towards the end of that year. He transferred to the S.A.A.F. in 1924, commanded the training depôt in Natal in 1935-37, and at the outbreak of this war was in command of an air station in the Union. During the next year he was Deputy Director of the S.A.A.F., and later Acting Director-General.

Becoming Senior Air Staff Officer at Air Headquarters in East Africa in 1941, six months later he was posted to the Middle East, where he formed and commanded the first South South African light bomber wing for duty over the Western Desert. He returned to the Union late in 1942, again as Deputy Director of the S.A.A.F., and later became commander of the Coastal Air Defence. Then he went back to the Middle East as S.A.S.O. He was awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List of 1943.

Lieut. Guy de Bary, 27th Lancers, a young Rhodesian commanding a squadron of armoured cars in the Eighth Army, has been reported by war correspondents to have stated when he met Russian tanks on the outskirts of Voitsburg, an Austrian munitions manufacturing town near Graz, that the 80 miles from Klagenfurt had taken no less than 12 hours to traverse because the roads were packed with the fleeing remnants of a German army corps which had been fighting in the Balkans and was seeking to escape the Russians. Troops, S.S. men, Nazi officials, and quislings from every Balkan country, panic-stricken at the prospect of being captured by the Russians or the Yugoslavs, were concerned only to surrender to the British or Americans.

VE Tributes

Vice Admiral Sir Campbell Tait, Governor of Southern Rhodesia, has telegraphed to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs : " We have watched with admiration the tenacity, courage, and self-sacrifice displayed by the people of Great Britain throughout the whole course of the war against Germany, and, like you, look forward to the day when all our energies may be devoted to the task of reconstruction.

In Sunday's " Calling East Africa " programme Juma bin Aley, a Zanzibari, described the calm manner in which this country celebrated VE Day. He said : " The people here have a very remarkable sense of proportion : they rejoiced and celebrated the victory when it was proper, but almost overnight switched over to win the war with Japan. In two days posters all over London were calling for further efforts and if necessary greater sacrifices for the war in the Far East."

Brother Francis, of Uganda, also gave his impressions of VE Day in London.

On the day following VE Day the Nairobi Broadcasting Station opened a special programme with the sound of Native drums telling the news of Germany's defeat. General Sir Kenneth Anderson, G.O.C.-in-C., reminded listeners that Japan had still to be vanquished. Sir Philip Mitchell, Governor of Kenya, then spoke in Swahili.

Mr. G. F. C. Matthews, a senior member of the staff of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, has gone to East Africa to explain to men and women in the Services the plans of the Government of the United Kingdom for their re-settlement after release from the forces. Mr. Matthews was in the Army in the Middle East from 1915 to 1918.

Rhodesians serving in Italy with the 6th South African Armoured Division, whom we reported some time ago to have formed a Southern Rhodesia Forces Farmers' Association, have now formed a similar Forces Mining Association.

A large new club for *askari* of No. 53 African Garrison Group of the African Pioneer Corps in the Middle East is called the " Ruiru Club."

Released Prisoners of War

Flight Lieut. Neville Bowker, R.A.F., of Umtali, had a red-letter day when spearheads of the famous Guards Armoured Division captured the German town of Zeven, for they liberated him after three and a half years in Nazi hands. In December, 1941, his Tomahawk was brought down by enemy fire in the Western Desert. But that was not his first experience of being a prisoner of war. He had been captured in Crete and held for five days before escaping and getting off the island on a naval craft.

" I was a long time at Sagan, the camp where they shot 50 R.A.F. officers who tried to escape," he told a military observer. " I made several escape attempts myself, and got out three times, but I was recaptured each time. Still, planning an escape solved the problem of the awful boredom of prison camp life."

When the Russians advanced last winter, the Germans around Sagan were in a panic, and prisoners of war were marched west. " That 100-kilometre march was a nightmare," he said. " Most of us were sick with something like dysentry, and all of us came near to exhaustion from fatigue and hunger. Many died of the cold, for the temperature was 20° below zero. After the march and a rail journey in cattletrucks we reached a camp near Bremen. The treatment there was usually good, but there were a few bad exceptions among the guards. On of them I'm going to remember for a long time : he deliberately shot at me four days back and put a bullet through my leg. I shouldn't mind meeting him again sometime."

Lieut. Patrick Lewis, of Salisbury, who has arrived in London after being a prisoner in Italy and then in Germany since September, 1943, spoke in last Saturday's " Calling Southern Rhodesia " programme of the B.B.C. of life in Oflag 5A, where there were about 1,000 officers and 100 other ranks from all parts of the Empire, including more than 500 South Africans and three Rhodesians, the other two being Gordon Moir, formerly of the Lands Department in Salisbury, and Sidney Loewenson, of Bulawayo. The favourite subject of study among the prisoners was farming, and many spoke of their wish to settle in Rhodesia. Lieut. Lewis concluded : " All I ask is a stone house on top of a *kopje* washed by a stream, and with a distant view of the Shamva Hills."

Flight Lieut. John McLauchlan, of Salisbury, spoke in the same programme of the two and a half years which he had spent in Burma as navigator with an

R.A.F. Transport Squadron flying Dakota aircraft. They would, he said, be shown a pin-point on a map somewhere in great hill ranges, perhaps merely a dozen huts at the top of a jungle-covered mountain wrapped in cloud, but somehow the troops were provisioned and the wounded brought back. In the same squadron were two other Rhodesians—"Wally" Kimble, of Salisbury, a pilot, and Eric Spence, of Bulawayo, a member of the ground staff.

Captain R. H. Tigar, of Southern Rhodesia, who was a prisoner of war in Germany, has been repatriated.

Casualties

Flight Lieut. J. C. I. Hooper, D.F.C., younger son of Squadron Leader C. A. Hooper, East Africa Command, and Mrs. Hooper, of Hazels, Wylye, Wiltshire, who was previously reported missing from night air operations, is now known to have lost his life.

Flight Sergt. Peter Charles Nightingale Green, R.A.F.V.R., whose death on active service is reported, was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green, of Luanshya, to which Copperbelt township he had gone as a boy of seven. He lived there until he went to Plumtree School, Southern Rhodesia, six years later. Joining the R.A.F. on leaving school in 1941, he was trained in Southern Rhodesia, and on coming to England was posted to No. 266 (Rhodesia) Squadron. He was shot down over Normandy last August and made prisoner; after two unsuccessful attempts at escape, he managed to get through to the American front. After leave in England he applied to rejoin his old squadron immediately, and his aircraft was shot down on Christmas Day over the Dutch-German border. He is now known to have been killed.

The total amount subscribed to December 31, 1944, by the Bulawayo area to the National War Fund of Southern Rhodesia was £229,851.

Africans in the South Nyeri district of Kenya gave more than £1,202 during "Burma Week," a drive from March 31 to April 7 to raise funds for East Africans in South East Asia; this total did not include the proceeds of two African sports meetings or donations from the African staff of the dried vegetable factory. This African contribution was almost half the total raised by the whole district, including the European and Indian communities.

Contributions from Ethiopia to the British Wings-for-Victory campaign have totalled about £10,000 in the last year. The Emperor headed the list with £1,000, and the total contributions of the Imperial family have amounted to £2,560.

During its four and a half years of existence to the beginning of this year the Beira British Charities Fund collected some £36,000.

British & Indian Troops Are 60 Miles From Taungoo

SEAC, April 24.— On the 14th Army front, British and Indian troops and armoured columns are now only 60 miles from Taungoo.

The advance continues against slight opposition.

Taungoo is an important junction on the road and railway between Meiktila and Rangoon.

On the 15th Indian Corps front, our troops are making progress in their eastward drive along the line of Taungup Chaung, north-east of Taungup town.

West African Troops Enter An Unopposed By The Japs

SEAC, 18.—West African patrols have entered An, 66 miles north of Taungup, without opposition.

Troops advancing east along the Prome road have reached a point 30 miles south-east of Taungup.

Fourteenth Army Front: West of the Sittang river, our troops continued to clear enemy pockets of resistance.

In the Toungoo area, there was slight progress along the road running east of Mawehi against stiff opposition.

West of the Thazi road into the Shan Hill, our troops have made further advance.

W. African Ranks Get Christmas Fare By Air

NEW DELHI, Jan. 19.— A special Christmas fare dropped by perachute to African ranks of the 81 (WA) Division included chickens, boiled sweets, sweet biscuits, bread and coffee.

Dowens of Africans worked feverishly for days at the base forwarding airfield packing the hampers for the men.

British troops also received their Christmas fare.

West African Patrol Kills Party Of Japanese In Open Fields Of The Lower Kaladan Valley

GHQ, WA, Feb. 5 —A one and a half mile hue and cry across the open fields of the lower Kaladan valley, ended in five cut of six of a hunted party of Japanese being killed by a West African patrol, writes a West African Forces observer.

The presence of the enemy was known and they were believed to be stragglers either from Akyab or the Mayu range.

The West Africans, led by Captain Roy Stirling, R.E., of Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, beat the high grass in line abreast.

Finally, the Japanese jumped up and ran.

The Africans dashed after them shouting the Hausa equivalent of "After them boys."

The first Jap was shot through the head as he was struggling over a deep chasm.

The Africans including those who could not swim, dashed into the water neck deep and continued the chase on the other side.

Another of the enemy turned at bay and was bayonetted.

Across the open country the chase went on and two more of the enemy were shot.

The fifth, exhausted, turned on the Africans who were almost on him, took a grenade and blew himself up.

NA 31065 Dogo Yaro of Ribba, Kontegora Province, and serving as a regular in a Nigerian battalion, saw the man commit hara kiri.

"He looked as if he could go no further," said the Corporal.

"He had been wounded in the leg, we were running up to take him prisoner when he took the grenade out.

"He crouched over it, banged it down and in a second he was dead."

Colonel Joins West Africans, Wins First D.S.O.

With only a few weeks of joining the West African Forces in Burma a Battalion commander of the Nigerian Regiment has won the Distinguished Service Order. This is the first D.S.O. to be awarded to the W.A.F.F.

Lt.-Colonel R.M.V. Portasmby, of the Devon Regiment and the Nigerian Regiment,

[illegible] December 16 1944, Lieut.-Colonel Portasmby received [illegible] Kaladan Valley, which [illegible] wide, with [illegible] established [illegible] Singdin Chaung, which [illegible] 100 yards wide and about [illegible] miles [illegible] Kaladan [illegible]

By [illegible] had to [illegible] difficulties and [illegible] enemy [illegible]

The enemy reacted strongly and made [illegible] several attacks on the bridgehead. The West Africans stood [illegible] Then Lt.-Col. Portasmby personally led his men round the enemy's flank, and although greatly hampered by tidal channels and deep mud, succeeded in encircling the enemy. The Japanese were forced to evacuate their positions.

African Negro Praises West African Troops

The Gold Coast Independent

'An outfit that rates as one of the best fighting machines of the British Empire', is how coloured War Correspondent J. Brooks of the 'Chicago Defender'— America's largest newspaper for Negroes—describes the West Africans in Burma.

The British have welded them into a mighty fighting force which the enemy has learnt to fear says Brooks What the Japs don't like is the ferociousness with which they fight.

Tall, young looking wiry-built Maj General Sockwell, considered one of the best jungle fighters in the business, has only recently been appointed commander of the 82nd Division As the retreating Nip slinks backwards in Burma during the coming monsoons, he can expect to feel an increasingly bitter sting from the boys from far away Africa.

Watching the West Africans strike inland from the Ru Ywa bridgehead on the central Burma coast, Brooks was particularly impressed with the load-carrying auxiliaries. Through the steaming jungles they go, carrying an average of 45 lbs on their heads plus packs and rifle One hundred local villagers were hired the other day to help them get supplies up to a battalion headquarters The pure Africans were staggering under a load one-fifth to weight carried by the Africans.

Heavy Gold Coast

Using thirty per cent of auxiliaries, African troops are the most mobile fighting units in the world

Speaking of West African medical orderlies Brooks says that they rate as the best male nurses in the British Army In spite of their size and natural strength they were extremely gentle and immaculately clean Their ready infectious smile helped the morale of the sickest.

Black Troops From French Equatorial West African Africa Capture Herr Hitler's Hideout

Revenge Against Nazis Insult Of Negro

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

5-17-45

LONDON.— The "Black Devils," African troops recruited by the late Governor-General Felix Eboue, at the time of the collapse of the French Republic in 1940, have captured Hitler's "Eagle's Nest" — located amidst steep Alpine crags near Berchtesgaden.

Of all the ironies of this war, this is certainly the most ironical — that Africans derogatorily described as "semi apes" in "Mein Kampf," the Nazi bible, should be the first Allied troops to fly their battle torn Tricolor, brought all the way from Central Africa over the late Fuehrer's lair.

5-17-45

It is an event that would have warmed the cockles of the heart of Governor General Eboue, had he lived to witness the triumphant day.

The news caused great pleasure and delight among the coloured community in London, especially Africans, whose military prowess in this war has refuted all the slanders — openly and silently expressed in certain negrophobist circles.

These black men, who until 5-17-45 France's hour of need, were among the millions of forgotten colonials, have helped to liberate the white peoples of Europe from the yoke of Fascist slavery.

They marched across the Sahara under General Leclerc and fought in Tunisia, through Sicily and Southern Italy, then from the south of France to the Alps.

Today, they stand proud victors over the evil forces of Fascism and German imperialism; the flag presented to them by Governor Eboue at the time they set out from Equatorial Africa now proudly flies over the shambles of Hitler's once mighty empire.

5-17-45

According to information reaching French military circles in London, the Africans had to wade through snow neck deep to arrive at the late Fuehrer's villa overlooking the Austrian frontier.

They got to the place ahead of advanced columns of the American Seventh Army which were racing to have the honour of being the first force to storm the last hide-out of the Nazi big shots. 5-17-45

To celebrate the occasion, Lieutenant Catlin, who led the Africans, distributed specially gold bound copies of "Mein Kampf" found among the ruins of Hitler's library, to the African NCOs.

The privates who distinguished themselves in fighting were given Goering's medals and hats as souvenirs.

They intend to take these trophies back to Central Africa to show their countrymen what the so-called "semi-apes" have done to the "superior master-race."

Searching through Hitler's special under-ground apartment, the Africans found fine linens and silks, cosmetics, choicest French wines and rarest Scotch whisky. 5-17-45

Hitler's library contained thousands of specially bound volumes of treatises on architecture, medicine and engineering.

African Troops On Burma Front Strike West African pilot Headlines For Advance Against Japs

Racing The British 36th For Mandalay

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

1-13-45

LONDON (By Air Mail).—Because of their outstanding achievements in the Burma campaign, African troops are for the first time getting head line credit for leading the advance against the Japs.

Military spokesmen in London reveal that at the time of writing this dispatch, a race is going on between the 11th East African Division and the British 36th Division to see which force will reach Mandalay, the former capital of Burma, first.

The advanced positions of the East Africans, driving southwards from Kalewa to Shwegyin, are roughly 209 miles away from Mandalay.

According to dispatches reaching London military circles from the South-East Asia theatre of operations, the East Africans, after crossing the Chindwin from Kalewa under cover of darkness, established a firm bridgehead on the east bank and are now reinforcing their position against strong Japanese resistance.

1-13-45

It is reported that except for stragglers in the Kalewa area, the Africans have cleared the Japs from all the areas west of Chindwin and the north of the Myittha river.

Reviewing the week's operations to British and foreign correspondents, a military spokesman explained the whole plan of the campaign to the newspapermen on large scale military maps.

The official review emphasised that the Allied drives into the Japanese-held northern Burma are beginning to assume a well-defined pattern. 1-13-45

In the upper Chindwin sector, Fourteenth Army troops have established on the east bank a wide bridgehead in the area south-east of Sittaung.

Naba, on which the British troops are advancing, is seven miles south of Pinwe, which was occupied on November 30, and is a junction from which a 15 mile railway line runs south east to the Irrawaddy port of Katha.

The Tenth United States Air Force is co-operating with the Africans and Negro engineer units are busy laying down airfields and roads.

Military medals have been awarded to Corporal Malakwen Sitierl and Private Kasulu Nyaka, serving with the King's Royal East African Rifles, who under heavy enemy fire unhesitatingly brought accurate machine-gun fire and grenades to

Africans Charge Burma

BURMA (ANP) — Soldiers from Nigeria and the Gold Coast, besides helping to drive the Japs out of Burma, are making maps of country hitherto unsurveyed. Thousands of these maps have now been printed and will be available to the civil authorities after the war.

15th Indian Corps Threatens To Block Retreat Of Japs On Myebon Peninsula

SEAC, Jan. 14.—The landing on Myebon peninsula in lower Burma by troops of General Cristison's 15th Indian Corps, as announced in yesterday's communique, threatens to cut the withdrawal route of the Japanese forces being rushed southwards by Allied troops advancing down the eastern side of the Kaladan plain.

British commandos landed under a smoke screen at the southern tip of the peninsula on Friday morning.

The bridgehead is now a mile and half deep.

The night before, a naval landing party landed on the beach and removed the destructions.

Before the landing took place, the enemy's beach defences were softened by an air pattern bombing and shelling by sloops of the Royal Indian Navy.

The landing was opposed by artillery and medium machine gun fire which lasted an hour.

Myebon peninsula is bounded by rivers Myebon and Kyatsin which link up at Minbya, 23 miles north of Myebon.

The rivers are used by the enemy as longitudinal lines of communication.

In the Japanese landing at Ponnagyun, about 14 miles north-east of Akyab, as reported in Friday's communique, the enemy used words of command in English and Urdu.

The strategy did not deceive the sentry of Royal Garhwal Rifles who shot the landing Japanese.

After a short sharp engag ment, the enemy withdrew up the Kaladan river in power- driven boats.

Nigerian Company Attacks Retreating Line Of Japanese Troops Before Dodan

SEAC, Feb 21—Men of a Nigerian company, in their first battle in Burma, performed many deeds of bravery before the town of Dodan, on the east bank of the Kalapanzin on the line of the enemy's retreat from Mayu and Akyab.

An officer said they fought with great courage and determination, in spite of suffering more casualties than they ever did in the East African campaign.

One sergeant, Moma Fort Lami (NA 28086) of Kano, seeing his officer shot by a sniper, went out to avenge him.

He moved across open paddy ground to the house from which the snipper was firing.

He reached it without being hit, threw a smoke bomb in and then set fire to the house.

After looking inside and seeing the dead body of the Jap, he carried his officer back to his own lines.

Another sniper was dealt with by Private Malabu Idrissa (NA 88771) of Malabu.

Spotting him in a tree, Malabu ran across and shot him dead from beneath the branches.

The body crashed down and Malabu, although under heavy fire, searched it and brought documents back with him.

Lance Corporal Ibrahim Tilla (NA 39914), of Bauchi, in another act of gallantry in this fight, seized his bren gun and although exposed to heavy fire dashed over open country to engage an enemy machine gun.

He was just in time to relieve the pressure on one threatened platoon which then continued its advance.

100,000 W. Africans Are Serving In Asia

SEAC, Feb. 25—There are now about 100,000 British West African soldiers serving in South East Asia and India Commands.

The West African 82nd division is in action with the 15th Indian Corps in Arakan.

Also serving are the 81st division and a large number of other units.

The 82nd division was formed in Nigeria in October 1943 and is comprised largely of veteran troops from the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

A brigade from each of these colonies went through the East African and Abyssinian campaigns, fighting magnificently and taking part in the march into Addis Ababa.

There are many Rhodesian officers in the division but the majority of officers and non-commissioned officers are from United Kingdom regiments.

West African Division Is Engaged At Arakan

SEAC, Feb. 23—It is officially announced that the 82nd. West African Division is in action with the 15th India Corps in the Arakan.

The 82nd Division was the force which captured Buthidaung and then pushed east across the Kaladan to form with the 81st Division an all-African left flank for the 15th Corps driving on Akyab.

The 82nd Division was formed in Nigeria in 1943 and is composed of veteran Nigerian and Gold Coast troops.

A brigade from each of these colonies went through the East African and the Abyssinian campaigns, fighting magnificently and taking part in the march on Addis Ababa.

The division arrived in India in July, 1944, and began intensive training.

It has many Rhodesian officers.

African RAF Pilot Awarded DFC

FREETOWN, W. Africa — The Distinguished Flying Cross was awarded this week to Pilot Officer Adesenyah Kwamina Hyde, of Sierra Leone, an airman in the Royal Air Force.

Pilot Officer Hyde was cited for his heroism during a bombing mission over Les Catelliers last August. Although his right arm was shattered by a shell fragment, Hyde did not inform his captain of his wounds until the target was successfully bombed.

One of the crew members then rendered first aid, but Hyde refused to take morphia. It was not until the English coast was reached that the wounded pilot collapsed from pain and loss of blood.

The African flyer was educated at the Sierra Leone grammar school and the Methodist Boys' high school, Freetown. After serving in the ranks, he was commissioned in November, 1944.

Decorate Africans For Bravery

BURMA — Two East Africans of the Somali battalions were recently decorated in central Burma for bravery in combat against the Japanese.

Cpl. Jama Abdi, a member of the Gadabursi tribe, received his award for leading a charge that forced the withdrawal of a Japanese gun crow after his platoon's British officer had been wounded. He also organized the protection and evacuation of the wounded after the battle, his citation revealed.

Lance Cpl. Abdi Ibrahim, of the Degodiya tribe, fought a Japanese who was about to kill one of his comrades. He engaged the Jap soldier with his bare hands and dragged him down a 50-foot cliff. He was found at the bottom of the cliff wounded beside the dead Japanese.

Lance Cpl. Ibrahim was awarded the gallantry certificate.

Labour In Nigeria's Post-War Development

West African Pilot

THE speedy turn the growth of trade unionism in this country has taken within the last five or six years has been really astonishing to the outside observer. And, although such a mushroom growth, as some have described it, has been a great credit not only to the government who sponsored and encouraged it but also to the leaders of the working class men and women whose brain and brawn had effected the growth, the path to this ultimate glorious achievement has not been without its own blood, sweat and tears. It has been a thorny one indeed.

Looking back, therefore, with pride at the position, need we be blamed if we venture to suggest that labour will have a very important role to play in the development of the new Nigeria that is, like the proverbial phoenix, to resurrect from the ashes of the old Nigeria in the years to follow the war? Do we require people to tell us that the trend this development has taken constitutes a significant straw which shows the way the wind of post-war politics will blow? 2-7-45

Yes, Nigeria is on the move and, like all dynamically political states, is bound to be assertive. We must have to be alive and show absolute preparedness for the inevitable future that is to come. And, in that connection, we shall require more and more union leaders, leaders of the Imoudu brand, leaders who would not bulge, who would be prepared to sacrifice all in order that the majority behind them might live. We need more and more tuition in the rights, privileges and duties of trade unionists as a whole and we need cultivate a more respectable sense of responsibility that is even necessary at the moment.

To do this effectively, we must have labour representatives, elected by the Trade Union Congress of Nigeria, in our Legislative Council. That will be the first step to the resurgence of the working classes. But before we obtain that, we must be unanimous, unfettered and courageous and at the same time constitutional, in all our demands. And we are bound to succeed. The fact that we know our mighty past should give us implicit faith in the mightier future that lies ahead of us in this great dependency of the empire. 12-2-45

"ON AFRICA IN POST-WAR WORLD"

Johannesburg, S. Africa

The following are extracts from a memorandum on "Africa in the post-war world" which has been handed to the United Nations Conference at San Francisco:

It was promulgated and supported by the League of Coloured Peoples in co-operation with West African Students' Union (London), International African Service Bureau (London), Negro Association (Manchester), Negro Welfare Centre (Liverpool and Manchester), Coloured Men's Institute (London), and endorsed by the following Colonial Trade Union Leaders on behalf of their Unions: J. S. Annan, Gold Coast Trade Unions; T. A. Bankole, President, Nigerian T.U.C.; H. N. Critchlow, British Guiana Trade Unions; J. A. Garba-Jahumpa, Secretary Gambia T.U.C.

Bantu World

The vast continent of Africa with its 160 million inhabitants and immense though undeveloped resources in mineral, forest and agricultural wealth must command the attention of the international organisation. The rapid economic development, industrialisation and the advancement of the social standards of Africa must form an integral part of any plan to build world prosperity. 6-2-45

United Nations must Free themselves of the Evils against which They are Fighting.

Africa is a land of varied political forms, economic interests and social and cultural standards. This is complicated by the fact that among the Powers with imperial possessions in Africa are Fascist Spain and Fascist Portugal. It is further complicated by the colour bar laws and practices obtaining within the territories of some of the United Nations themselves, notably the Union of South Africa. The United Nations are pledged to secure in addition to the military defeat of Fascism, the eradication of its moral and political manifestations, chief of which is the theory of the master race against inferior races. If the principles for which we fight do not apply only to Europe, then it is the duty of the United Nations to eliminate the influence of the Spanish and Portuguese Fascist regimes and to remove from their own territories those theories and practices for the destruction of which Africans have died on many battlefields. In this way alone can true international collaboration and planning for the future of Africa proceed in conditions free from conflict and favourable to such collaboration.

Recommendations

In the belief that it is the eager desire of the United Nations to begin with the least possible delay the solution of these problems, we recommend:

(1) That the International Organisation should immediately adopt policies and set up all necessary machinery to secure the uniform and rapid development of the economic, social and cultural life of the African peoples.

(2) That guided by the principle of equal rights for all men and recognising that the success of any scheme will depend on the measure to which Africans themselves participate, steps should be taken for the provision of maximum opportunity for such participation at all levels of administration.

The present inferior political, economic and social states of the African peoples militates against the achievement of harmonious cooperation among the peoples of the world. International co-operation demands the abolition of every kind of discrimination on account of colour, race and creed wherever such discrimination exists.

(3) The present system of exploitation by which the bulk of the wealth produced in Africa goes to enrich foreign monopoly firms and individuals must be replaced by systematic planning and development whereby in the first place the Africans themselves shall be the principal beneficiaries of the wealth produced, then an equal opportunity be afforded to all nations in the exchange of products. In this regard an international council representative of producer and consumer interests should be established within the framework of the International Organisation for the stabilisation of commodity prices at levels ensuring reasonable returns to producers and maximum satisfaction to consumers.

(4) Simultaneously with economic development progressive steps should be taken to associate Africans with the management of their own affairs with a view toward the achievement of full self-government within a definite time limit, as in the case of the Philippine Commonwealth.

(5) The eradication of mass illiteracy calls for energetic measures on less sustained than those which aim at the ending of poverty, disease and squalor. The greater the spread of education for both children and adults the greater will be the pace of advancement of the peoples as a whole. That it is possible to eradicate mass illiteracy within a short space of time is proved by the experience of Soviet Central Asia, where 20 years ago there was a very small percentage of literacy, where now illiteracy has been practically abolished and universities flourish.

(6) The former Italian colonies now under military rule shall have the same treatment as the rest of the African territories and shall be given every assistance in development along with these other territories on the road to full self-government. 6-2-45

6-Point Plan for Africa's Independence Suggested

Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

9-22-45

NEW YORK—(ANP) — A six-point program for Africa in the peace settlement was recently forwarded by the Council on African Affairs to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Edward L. Stettinius Jr., U.S. representative to the United Nations organization.

Printed in full in the September issue of the Council's bulletin, "New Africa," the program, sent by Max Yergan, executive secretary, covers the following:

Disposition of Colonies

The disposition of Italy's African colonies, the future of the World War I mandated territories in Africa, the question of Spanish and Portougese African colonies;

Economic and political rights of African colonials and the specific guarantee of self-government and independence to the African colonies. 9-22-45

Regarding the first point, the council asks that Eritrea be restored to Ethiopia and that Libya and Italian Somaliland be placed under the administration of an international commission representative of the major powers or the United Nations.

Asks Inclusion of Russia

Specifying the inclusion of the Soviet Union on such a commission the council states, "No European power nor the United States should have exclusive control delegated or otherwise, over any part of those territories."

Vigorously opposing any annexation of existing mandated territories in Africa, the council suggests that they, with the Spanish and Portuguese possessions, be brought under the jurisdiction of the United Nations trusteeship council. 9-22-45

Requesting economic and political rights for African colonials in keeping with democratic principles, the body urges that 5 or 10-year programs which will lead to self-government and independence be inaugurated in the colonies.

Two More West Africans Will Be Trained As Army Officers

West African Pilot

11-8-45

ACCRA, Nov. 7. — Two more West Africans have been selected for training as Army officers.

They are Sergeant J B Hayford and Sergeant J H Cobbina.

Both are NCOs in the Gold Coast Regiment and they have been passed as suitable for admission to an officer cadet training unit in the United Kingdom.

Two other Gold Coast men have already been through an OCTU and a military college, having passed out with commissions in the Royal West African Frontier Force.

They are Captain Seth Anthony and Lieutenant Imphraim.

A Tribute To Our Fighting Men

Gold Coast Independent

(By Ayodele Lijadu)

West Africa

THE following is an extract from a broadcast by Mr. Ayodele Lijadu, one of the four West African newspapermen who recently toured units of the Royal West African Frontier Force in India and Burma.

9-8-45

"NO doubt we have all pa[rt]ed when we met them had just come out of the Burma campaign where they had served with the famous Chindits.

news of the Japanese surrende and the end of the war in South East Asia where our West African Forces have been engaged. As everybody now knows, the Chindits, led by the late Major General Wingate, and later by General Lentaigne, had a very difficult and dangerous job. Landed several of war with great reinforcements behind the enemy lines, This is only natural, as it means their main tasks were to cut the to them even far more than it enemy's lines of communication does to us, the end of hostilities and cause as much havoc and exposure to the greatest danger, harassment of the enemy as they the end of arduous toil and possibly could. How well they strain, the triumphant end of carried out these tasks has been the grave task which took them, testified by the many glowing away from their homes to distant regions, and no assurance tributes paid to their courage of their return to those nearest and gallantry by the men under and dearest to them whom they whom they served, and also by have left behind.

the fact that many of them were mentioned in despatches or decorated. 9-8-45

"Although the war is now over, I am sure every one who has relatives serving overseas, especially in the areas which I recently visited, will still be very much interested to know more about what our troops have been doing in the Far East and under what conditions they have been living. That is the reason why I am continuing this series of broadcasts on the West African War Correspondents' Tour of South-East Asia.

9-8-45

"One of the first complete units we visited soon after our tour started was a Field Company composed almost entirely of Nigerians. This Company

"Quite naturally we were very happy to meet them and interested to hear from them their own accounts of what they had done. Mallam Makama and I who interviewed them were very much impressed by the simplicity and modesty of their narratives.

"Although they were fully aware of the publicity that had been given to the exploits of the Chindits — exploits in which they themselves had played a far from negligible part — the manner in which they told their stories seemed to show that they considered that what they did was just the duty they had to carry out and that they could have done no less than they actually did in the circumstances.

"Stories of the gallant deeds of the Chindits have already been sent to West Africa by Army Observers, and I myself also sent some despatches home on the subject from South-East Asia. In all accounts of the Burma campaign, strong emphasis has been laid on the natural difficulty of the terrain, and when it is remembered that the Japs had been for almost two years in occupation of the country, during which period they had had sufficient time to prepare their defences and strengthen their positions, it will be still more fully appreciated that the task which fell to the lot of these men was not only arduous but extremely dangerous.

1d 1945

COLOUR DISCRIMINATION IN THE FORCES

West AFRICAN Pilot Lagos

By A NURSING ORDERLY

On December 20, 1944, there was an ENSA entertainment for His Majesty's forces in the 13.h General Hospital, Middle East.

West African nursing orderlies as well as British nursing orderlies, officers, nursing sisters, ATS, and BNCO's, had full authority to attend the show.

But to my greatest astonishment, the West Africans were turned out from the concert hall, in a disgraceful way. 1-17-45

On enquiring the cause of the incident, the only response made by an officer who stood nearby was "arrest the black monkeys for disobedience of order."

Twenty of us were arrested.

Not being satisfied with the victims captured, one of us was severely thrashed by a BNCO who lastly goaled the rest.

At about 10 p.m., the so called Welfare Officer, Captain Heet, was phoned for.

Before his arrival, one of the British sergeants said that West Africans were not invited by Britain to render any assistance.

That the British Isles, despite their minute population, is 50 times more powerful than the entire continent of Africa. 1-17-45

That Great Britain, the pride of the waves and the skies, is at war with Germany, and not with any country in Africa; neither with Nigeria.

That the Nigerian Government should fetch her useless and stupid soldiers back. 1-17-45

I wish to remind the people of Britain that before the reign of Julius Caesar, the Roman Emperor, they were cave dwellers.

Their clothing was made from animal skins.

It was after the conquest of England, by Caesar, that he taught the inhabitants how to construct decent and straight streets.

He taught them how to erect magnificient buildings with towering stories.

They should not seize the opportunity to make a joke of us by harping on the backwardness of Nigeria to foreign countries.

If Nigeria is civilized today by the English people, it is not an out-of-the-way thing.

The Almighty Creator had known that the elevation of Nigeria will be derived from a foreign nation. 1-17-45

I wish you to publish this article and send a copy to Mr Churchill so that he may read about the treatment West African medical orderlies are receiving under the supervision of Colonel Morries and Captain Heet.

W.A.A.M.C.
MIDDLE EAST.

Britain Bars So. Africans From London

Philadelphia Tribune Phil. Pa. 7-11-45

LONDON (ANP)—This city is "out of bounds" to native South African ex-prisoners of war who are in Britain awaiting return to their native land.

That revelaton was made recently by a young South African who came here to visit Africa House to thank the Red Cross for the good care they had taken of prisoners formerly held in Nazi prisons.

The ruling that colored South Africans may not visit any large town was laid down by the South African government, declared an official of Africa House. Despite complaints, the order has been enforced in Italy and North Africa as well as in Britain, he added.

Jackass Smuts at It Again

Afro American 9-8-45

Gen. Jan Christian (Jackass) Smuts, premier of British South Africa, not long ago issued an order that puts London "out of bounds" to all South African colored people who are ex-prisoners of war.

This would include African natives who served in British regiments and were captured by the Germans and Italians. Some of them went through the battles of Dunkirk, Salerno and Tripoli.

Smuts doesn't want these colored people to experience the freedom of London and then return to the terrific jim crow in South Africa.

The lily-white boys always do something like this. They try to keep the objects of their race hate from seeing that all white people are not prejudiced as they are.

But, if these South African troops have been fighting for four years in Europe, they have found lots of decent white people; they know that it is possible to live with white people and not be regarded as inferior.

Keeping African colonials out of London will only convince them that they haven't been fighting for democracy for themselves but only for democracy for white people.

What they will have to do eventually is to think more of themselves than they do of their country.

General Burrows Visits West African Gunners

Accra, Gold Coast, West Africa

P[illegible]ish [illegible]als

The Gold Coast Independent

THE G[illegible] Lieut G[illegible] Burrows, CB [illegible] ded his tour of [illegible] with a v[illegible] units in A[illegible] camp at Ranch[illegible]

3-31-45

At two of the [illegible] presented Bri[illegible] dals, one to [illegible] geant and the o[illegible] mental Sergt. [illegible] Sierra Leone

The Gold Coast Sgt. Isa Kamara which was [illegible] of the battery [illegible] has exhibited [illegible] thus a[illegible] ling of Africans [illegible] efforts have [illegible] to the efficiency [illegible] of his unit.

3-31-45

Flying on to Imphal, General Burrows saw West African gunners on the site of the famous and bloody Japanese invasion of India last year. It was here that he presented the B E M to

SLA BSM Saidu Koroma whose home is at 53 Hartshorn Street, Waterloo Sierra Leone

BSM Koroma has reached his present rank in seven years. He enlisted in the Coast Regiment in Freetown in 1938 and was among the nucleus of Africans chosen to form the first heavy ack ack battery on the West Coast of Africa.

3-31-45

Sir Gerald Whiteley Welcomes Nigeria's War Wounded From Burma Front

West African Pilot 4-29-45

Church, Press & Legco. Represented

4-26-45

Some of those men Nigeria had been hearing about, the valiant men who made up the vanguard in the Burma campaign were brought back to Lagos, yesterday, battered but still triumphant.

4-25-45

In the long voyage home from Burma there was never a dull moment for, in spite of the calamities their eyes had seen, they still had guitars to provide the music they loved and cards to take off their minds from the vicissitudes of war.

At the Apapa wharf, a party of Legislative Council and Executive Council members, church dignitaries and pressmen waited patiently beneath the broiling sun to inspect the sick boys.

4-25-45

The vessel itself, splashed with the merciful sign of the red cross, had a partly Indian crew and nursing orderlies made up of men from the counties of England and charming English maidens who seemed to have stood up well to an experience which perhaps men will never know till the war ends.

As the wharf hands were preparing for the disembarkation, a military band burst into the patriotic refrain of God save the King as His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government arrived.

A British detachment of the Red Cross of the RWAFF stood by on the wharf, whilst rows and rows of stretchers were piled up on the wharf side.

Among the officials at the wharf was Major General Bund, Commander of the Nigerian area, who was Acting GOC-in-C for West Africa when Lieutenant-General Burrows left to visit the Burma front.

Led by Sir Gerald Whiteley, Officer Administering the Government, the party from ashore boarded the hospital ship.

Several wards were inspected and, amidst the miscellaneous cases, men representing various tribes of Nigeria were seen seemingly none the worse in spite of their experiences.

Others were quiet and merely nodded to the greetings of the visitors.

The Bishop of Lagos was observed engaged in friendly conversation with a wounded Burma-Nigerian.

Others were blind perhaps never to see the land they love again.

One Calabar campaigner recounted his ordeal at the hands of the Japanese who had taken him prisoner.

His toes had been amputated by the enemy.

4-25-45

Another man was from Benin, a shell shock case.

One man had a stirring story of pathos and drama to relate.

He was Private Padoyebo Isaac, of the Nigeria Medical Corps, who left Lagos in July 1943 bound for the Burma inferno.

When his party fell into the hands of the Japanese Fascists on March 2, 1944, they did not find sanctuary until December 6, when they were aided by some Burmese peasants.

Had it not been for the fact that the party of West Africans feigned unconsciousness, the Japanese guard who came daily to inspect them might have done something tragic.

Later when the visitors had returned to the wharf side, the Police Band began to play old favourites of the last war.

About 3 p.m. Sir Gerald returned from the ship and as the band played the National Anthem, every man on the wharf, and the ship, Indians, Europeans and Africans alike stood at attention.

Among those present were the Chief Ashogbon, Dr O. Ajose, Assistant MOH and Dr K. A. Abayomi, M.D.

Right Rev. L. Gordon Vining, Bishop of Lagos; Right Rev. A. B. Akinyele, Right Rev. S. C Phillips, Rev. M. O. Dada, Superintendent of Olowogbowo Methodist Church.

Honourable Adeyemo Alakija, Honourable Jibril Martin and Honourable S. B. Rhodes.

Messrs Ayo Lijadu, S. L. Akintola, Anthony Enahoro and C. U. M. Gardner.

Mrs G. Wynter Shackleford, Mrs O. Ajose and Miss Aduke Alakija.

Another African From Lagos Receives Commission In The Royal Air Force

West African Pilot

Lagos

LONDON, April 1.—Sergeant S. M. O. Audifferen of Lagos has been commissioned Pilot Officer (Air Gunner) in the Royal Air Force.

It can now be revealed that Pilot Officer Audifferen had to fight his way to the top of his chosen profession, having been a victim of discrimination when he was posted to a West African station, recently, as Sergeant Air Gunner.

He was so disgusted and disillusioned that he requested to be posted back to England where, on arrival, he asked for his immediate discharge from the Royal Air Force, as the type of democracy he had experienced was not worth the risk.

The Air Ministry placated him, disclaimed knowledge about the alleged discriminatory practices, and gave him a long leave with pay.

On resumption of leave, he was not sent to West Africa any longer, and thus he proceeded with his aeronautical exploits.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We congratulate Pilot Officer Audifferen and regard his promotion as a slap in the face of those who presume to know West Africa so much that they must issue instructions to their innocent folks "Going Overseas" and pollute their social outlook with perverted knowledge rationalised to suit their brand of the herrenvolk idea.

African Soldiers Gallantry

Gold Coast
Independent
West Africa

Accra, Gold Coast,

THE strip of country on the west coast of Burma, the Arakan, where troops of the 82nd [WA Division have been playing a big part in the 15th India Corps drive southwards, has been the scene of a new and highly important landing of which news was released during the week.

4-14-45

It was announced on March 13th that Lieut General Sir Philip Christison's 15th Indian Corps, supported by shore-bombarding naval units, had landed Japanese by land and sea at the village of Rathedaung, 42 miles up the coast from Taungup.

Taungup is on the west end of the strategically important road from Prome, one of the last big communications of the Japs in the Arakan.

Although our troops have entered the town, Taungup itself has not been completely captured, and it is thought the Japanese will try to keep it as a supply base on the Arakan coast and the natural centre for escape routes across the Arakan Yomas to Prome, 65 miles away to the east in the Irrawaddy valley.

The capture of Taungup will also sweep the Arakan coast clear of the Japs, except for the enemy pocket at An, 66 miles to the north, which guards the head of the pass over the Yomas to the town of Minbu which is also in the Irrawaddy valley.

It is in the Ann area that troops of the 82nd [West African] Division are slowly but inexorably wearing down the tough enemy opposition.

On the 14th Army front our troops have reached the end of a definite phase of operations in Central Burma. The cutting of the main north-south road and railway communications, and the capture on Monday, have been followed by a battle in which the Japanese Army has been thoroughly beaten. It can no longer be described as an effective fighting force.

Having carried out [illegible] Burma — the 82nd and the 28th Brigade of which made determined attempts to stem the Allied advance by rushing chief forces to the Arakan front in Burma — the Combined Army, British, American and Chinese troops under General Dan Sutton, moving westward along the Burma road from Hsipaw, have occupied Kyaukme, 110 miles north east of Mandalay.

There is still much fighting to be done before the battle of Burma is ended however, for Japanese still hold all of Southern Burma and the distance from the present front line at Meiktila down to Rangoon is 306 miles.

Scots of West African gallant men continue to arrive telling of their fighting in which the 82nd (WA) Division is engaged. One of these, from an observer, tells of a Gold Coast gunner who braved death time and time again in order to maintain communications.

4-14-45

Although the ground was being swept by enemy fire, and the chaung was a potential death trap, No. GC45761 Gunner Wombie Dagomba, an observation post officer, made the journey several times.

4-14-45

The track between the forward gun officer and the guns, he said, was waist high across paddy fields, and each time the signaller had to go on this open target to enemy fire. He showed wonderful coolness under fire, and his battery commander.

Gunner Wombie Dagomba comes from Dagomba, and enlisted at Yendi in the Northern Territories where his wife, Fatima Dagomba, and his father Azandi are both living.

West Africans Occupy The Capital Of Arakan

1-30-45

SEAC, Jan. 29.—West African troops in Burma have completed the occupation of Myohaung, the ancient Arakan capital, 35 miles north-east of Akyab, and after taking rich booty are now mopping up east of the town.

The Japanese evidently abandoned the town in great haste, leaving large quantities of ammunition and medical supplies. 1-30-45

Visiting the West African troops in the Arakan for the second time in a month, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in south east Asia, met the famous Munshi men of northern Nigeria, and saw them dancing to improvised drums and music of hollowed chicken leg whistle.

The tribesmen discarded their army clothes and wore blankets as shirts, the nearest thing they could find as substitute for their African attire (Reuter). 2-2-45

Indians In Concert With West African Troops Take Taungup

Togo's

SEAC, April 4.—Troops of the 15th Indian Corps, with whom West Africans are in action, have captured Taungup, a town on the Arakan coast-road. 4-5-45

Taungup is the last Japanese coastal supply base in the Arakan.

West African Division Is Engaged At Arakan

West African Pilot

SEAC, Feb. 23.—It is officially announced that the 82nd. West African Division is in action with the 15th India Corps in the Arakan. 2-24-45

The 82nd Division was the force which captured Buthidaung and then pushed east across the Kaladan to form with the 81st Division on its left flank for the 15th Corps driving on Akyab.

The 82nd Division was formed in Nigeria in 1943 and is composed of veteran Nigerian and Gold Coast troops.

A brigade from each of these colonies went through the East African and the Abyssinian campaigns, fighting magnificently and taking part in the march on Addis Ababa.

The division arrived in India in July, 1944, and began intensive training.

It has many Rhodesian officers.

ld -1945 Participation in War II African Troops

GOLD COAST TROOPS LIBERATE BURMESE TERRITORY

The following is a special despatch to West African from Captain Butterworth, Official Observer with the West African Expeditionary Force. Heard, Gold Coast West Africa Gold Coast Independent

BUTHIDAUNG, most fought-for town in the Arakan since the Japs poured into Burma in 1943 is 'Gold Coast' country today. As events unfold it may prove that they are its final liberators. For in this renewed 1944-45 offensive, there is not a single soldier with experience of fighting on the seemingly eternal Arakan front, who does not believe we are now seeing the Japanese being finally thrown out of the Arakan.

1-20-45

There were no flowers, no cheers for the Gold Coast when they marched into Buthidaung. There never are in Burma. The bamboo in roofed towns and villages are always 'dead' and empty, when the shells start to scream down. The people flee to the hills or walk into 'Allied' country to await the expulsion of the Japs.

But Buthidaung, a dusty ramshackle ruin of houses, did not dismay Pte. Bale Basare from Basare. Arriving on the bank of the tidal Kalapanzin river with the forward troops, he was too busy operating his radio set to bother about public welcomes.

Other Gold Coasters were scattered about waiting their turn to cross the river when a Jap mortar opened up from a hidden position on the opposite side. Among these were Pte. Emmanuel T. Hervie of Obawale village, near Koforidua, and Pte. Caleb A. Sarpong of P. O. Box 37, High Street, Nsawam, near Accra. I had just finished talking to them when the bombs began to fall. They took cover in a ditch, and when it was over they emerged and took their place again in the queue for crossing. They both said they would be "overjoyed" that their friends at home would know they were taking part in the new Arakan advance.

1-20-45

So far there has been little fighting and the gunners have had as much to do as the infantry. Their targets are across the river in the low, jungle-covered hills fringing the river banks. Gunner Tennyson Afare, c/o Nathaniel Kojo of Jasikan, Gunner Francis Agbenyifia, c/o Parick Y S Kporsu, Catholic Mission Press, Keta, and Gunner Garba Hama of Cape Coast, had done their day's job of firing Gold Coast shell at the enemy, and were talking together under a mango tree as they waited their turn to cross the river. But the keenest of them was to make the front page at home was Gunner Abongo Frafra of Abongo near Bolgatanga. He ran after me to give me his name and address. There ought to be a picture of Abongo. His grin seemed as wide as the Kalapanzin River its if. 1-20-45

Indian Press Pay Tribute To West Africans

Gold Coast Independent Heard, Gold Coast

The following tribute to the West African troops serving in India was paid in a recent Editorial in the Indian newspaper 'The Statesman' published in Calcutta. 3-10-45

'The West African progress in Burma has kept them steadily in the news ever since their arrival in this war theatre. They are a foe the Japs learned to respect and fear and have beaten him in his own game of jungle warfare.

They have been conspicuous in the Arakan campaigns and the latest accounts of their exploits is characteristic. West African

The 82nd West African Division which was formed less than 18 months ago and joined the 15th Indian Corps in Arakan in Dec., captured Buthidaung and advanced 50 miles in six weeks. Simultaneously the 81st West African Division pushed down the Kaladan Valley. 3-10-45

With these two divisions and other units West Africans in the South East Asia Command now number one hundred thousand

East African Troops From SEAC Receive Great Ovation

West African Pilot

NAIROBI, May 31.—Nearly 3,000 East African troops reached Kenya yesterday on leave from South-East Asia Command. 6-2-45

They are mainly African Askari and many had taken part in the Burma fighting. Eagle

The first batch arrived here by a special train this afternoon where they received a great ovation.

The biggest number is arriving on Friday when there will be a ceremonial march through the main streets (Reuter).

Burma 'Nightmare' Didn't Stop African Army Medics

Chicago Defender Chicago -Ill.

CALCUTTA, India—The heroism and bravery of a West African field ambulance unit which was cut off for three weeks in the wild hill country of the Arakan Yomas and, in spite of untold hardships and dwindling supplies, cared for 214 casualties, adds a further chapter to the already distinguished story of West African troops in Burma. 6-30-45

This particular unit was sent to join a brigade of Gold Coast troops of the 82nd West African Division. The night they arrived the area was shelled and the first casualties came in. The next day 13 of their patients were evacuated to the rear; they were the last to be sent back, for the next day news came that all lines of communication had been cut and they would have to carry on as best they could.

The next three weeks were a nightmare. As the casualties poured in, the small unit made the most of what it had at hand, improvising beds and stretchers from bamboo and sacking; the one surgeon worked day and night operating in dugouts deep in the jungle or on the side of a steep cliff; weary orderlies worked over rows of patients, always with an encouraging word or cheering smile.

Unit Moves Often 6-30-45

As the battle see-sawed back and forth within the isolated "box," the unit was forced to move its position many times, necessitating difficult hauls of the stretcher cases over precipitous cliff and wide rivers. Strong Africans worked in pairs, carrying the stretchers on their heads. Their skill, endurance and gentleness brought the patients safely through many such ordeals.

As the days wore on with no relief in sight, supplies began to run low. Patients were put on half-rations while the medical staff just went without. But, as elsewhere in Burma where the supply problem has been overcome by air drops, the RAF and USAAF parachuted blood plasma, penicillin, dressings and other medical supplies so that this valiant band could carry on. Even the parachutes were used to bolster the blanket shortage.

Gold Coast Independent

Issues — Gold Coast — West Africa

Four Gold Coast Men in the List

Decorations for [illegible] officer who carried out [illegible] ger us reconnaissance [illegible] the Kaladan River in [illegible] and for a Gambian soldier who [illegible] acted as his 'bodyguard', are in place, sent back a message, and cluded in the latest list of [illegible] awards to the West African Expeditionary Force.

3-3-45

The following is the [illegible]

MILITARY CROSS

Cap. J. K. Zielezak, [illegible] Reg.

MILITARY MEDAL

CSM. Ali Moshi, Gold Coast Regt.

Corporal Musa Frafra Gold Coast Regt.

Serjt. Isaka Moshi Gold Coast Regt.

Private Musa N'Jie Gambia Regt.

L/Cpl. Yahyah Jallow, Gambia Regt.

Cpl. Simura Koranko, Sierra Leone Regiment.

CERTIFICATE OF GALLANTRY

Cpl. Gaji Khan, 81 Div. Recce Regt.

3-3-45

Pte. Bawa Chokosi, Gold Coast Regt.

Capt. Zielezak, a Polish officer serving with the 81st (W A) Div., showed cold blooded courage, says the citation, at the crossing of the Kaladan River

The location and strength of the enemy were not known, and Capt. Zielezak volunteered to [illegible] the opposite bank. Accompanied by one African with a [illegible] he crossed the 500 yards river in daylight. He found a possible landing [illegible] place, sent back a message, and [illegible] the latter [illegible] made a recce of the whole [illegible]

The citation states that the officer [illegible] crossed [illegible] record. Gallantry [illegible] their [illegible]. But for the [illegible] be [illegible] would have managed to [illegible] was, [illegible] compelled them [illegible] by the [illegible] ected

The African who accompanied him was L/Cpl Yahyam Jallow, of the Gambia Regt. He volunteered for the job and during the whole reconnaissance he insisted on going in front with his Bren gun, displaying himself so that fire would be drawn to him rather than to the officer.

When contact was made with the Japanese he opened up on them with his Bren and definitely inflicted casualties. His gallantary inspired all his comrades says the citation.

The following are the stories behind the Gold Coast awards

3-3-45

C S M Ali Moshi charged a Japanese gun team firing his Bren gun from the hip despite machine gun fire from other enemy positions he engaged these positions until the patrol had got under cover.

'On his return' [illegible] tion his illustrious NCO gave a detailed [illegible] report of the [illegible] posts. This report was [illegible] fimed in almost [illegible] by a Japanese [illegible] found on the [illegible]. C S M Ali Moshi's leadership [illegible] mination had been of [illegible] high order on many occasions.

Corporal Musa Frafra was ambushed on a steep track. His Bren gunner was wounded and bullets ripped away some of Cpl Frafra's clothing without wounding him. He immediately snatched up the Bren gun and charged the enemy position firing from the hip. His determined [illegible] often caused the enemy to break and run from their strong position.

Serjeant Isaka Moshi was in command of a small patrol which was also ambushed by the Japanese. Two sergeants killed those of his men who were not killed and reformed in a small river bed. The enemy at once launched a strong attack with superior numbers but Sjt Moshi beat off the attack encouraging his men and showing complete disregard for his personal safety.

3-3-45

On a previous occasion Sjt Moshi ambushed an enemy force which was many times greater than his own. He held his fire until the Japanese were only a few yards away and thus enabled his patrol to kill a large number of the enemy.

Pte Bawa Chokosi went forward under fire to rescue a wounded comrade and carried him to safety through a waist-deep river. Unfortunately his comrade died.

Negro Airman Freed By Sociable Soviet Troops

West African Pilot 7-3-45

Tells Experiences In Captivity

By M. A. O. WILLIAMS, Barrister-at-Law

LONDON — Pilot Officer John Smythe recently liberated from a prisoner of war camp in Germany has been relating his experiences.

He has written a short account of these experiences for the next issue of WASU magazine.

He hopes to write a book on this subject later.

According to Smythe, their prison condition was tolerable until Himmler took over.

Smythe was shot down (he was a navigator) over Germany and had to trek five miles with shrapnels embedded in his legs before transport facilities were provided which took him and others into captivity.

He was in the camp where [illegible] filmed by Russian cine-camera men to be shown throughout the world (if not banned) that the African in the British Empire is not inferior.

REFUSED TO BE QUISLING

The Nazis tried to turn him into a Quisling by reminding him of the Free Indian Movement and all that.

Some other lures and baits were held out to him but all Smythe told his interrogators and baiters were the only things a prisoner of war was expected to say

No more no less.

The Nazis assumed to have forgotten the contents of their unholy bible — the Mein Kampf, although it must be admitted that the doctrine of Fascism is acceptable to some Britishers — both in the army and civil life.

Of course you cannot justify your domination over another person unless you assert your superiority over him.

Allied airmen were shot for [illegible] to escape through different ingenious devices including a tunnel dug in secret.

LIBERATED BY RUSSIANS

This massacre of Allied airmen by the Nazis has been condemned in no uncertain term by Smythe.

As for him, he was always "correct" while in captivity.

The camp was liberated by the Russians whose speed is still unparalleled in military history.

After liberation the Russian Field Marshal posed for a photograph with Smythe and all the others into captivity movements of this Field Marshal [illegible] Officer Smythe were

PROBLEM OF RETURNING AFRICAN SOLDIERS

The Bantu World, Johannesburg

Questions relating to the position of African ex-volunteers were discussed at an all-day conference on the demobilisation of African soldiers in the Darragh Hall last Saturday.

9-15-45

The conference was called jointly by the South African Legion of the B.E.S.L., the Springbok Legion and the Campaign for Right and Justice.

After lengthy discussion it was decided to appoint a continuation committee consisting of the three convening bodies, who had power to co-opt, it being understood that those co-opted would include at least two Africans. The committee was instructed to draw up a memorandum on the views expressed at the conference, for presentation to the Prime Minister, to follow up all practical suggestions and to report back to a further conference which will be called in the near future. 9-15-45

The conference was opened by the Rev. Michael Scott, chairman of the Campaign for Right and Justice.

Paying a tribute to the loyal contribution the African had made to the Allied victory, he said South Africa needed a new conception of nationhood to which all peoples could make a full contribution.

That meant building and construction on a large scale—in practical terms, finding jobs, building houses and dealing with lands lying derelict through soil erosion, ignorance and neglect.

"We are faced with the prospect of one of the worst famines this country has yet had to endure. We do not want to be alamists about it.We want to be sure that adequate plans are made by November to meet the very serious position which will have arisen by then, for it will be the African people who will probably suffer most. 9-15-45

"Already cattle are dying by the thousand, and the price of mealies is soaring. Food and water difficulties in the towns, as well as in the rural areas, are being exploited by unscrupulous traders and by the failure and corruptibility of the price control system."

OPPORTUNITY NEEDED

Charity alone could not deal with the problem, and, in any case, the African required opportunity more than charity. The establishment of a national trust fund to undertake large-scale farming projects and the establishment of co-operative chain stores was required. The land betterment areas in African territories showed what could be done.

The root of the problem of rehabilitating the African lay in giving him a chance of taking part in a full national life, and the future of the African people in the general scheme of things must be decided. 9-15-45

"If we do not provide land, freedom and opportunity for the African people to save themselves, this country of great possibilities will be reduced to a desert of useless sand and gold."

Major W. G. McConkey, of the Directorate of Demobilisation, described the present system of demobilisation for African volunteers, which was modelled closely on that for Europeans. He was called upon to answer many questions during the day.

UNFAIRNESS TO VOLUNTEERS

Many European employers were afraid to employ African ex-volunteers because they might have become too clever in the army, Colonel H. O. Sayer, chairman of the African sub-committee of the Johannesburg D.S.D.C., told the conference. This was completely unfair, because the African ex-volunteer was a better man than he had ever been. Army discipline had made him into a more efficient employee, and he was entitled to the best the country could give him. 9-10-45

Colonel Sayer suggested that an African organisation on the lines of the S.S.B. should be formed, with a nucleus of trained African soldiers. These could be used as instructors for younger men, and the battalion would not only train Africans for other skilled employment, but would also be a source of disciplined recruits for the police force. The police were keen to recruit African ex-volunteers, but were unable to do so at the dispersal depots.

The methods of demobilisation outlined by Major McConkey and Major Cooke were described as "delightful stories" by Lieut-Col. A. B. Kincaid-Weeks, M.C., of the S.A. Legion of the B.E.S.L., who said investigations by his organisation showed that the African ex-volunteer was definitely not getting a square deal.

SENSE OF FRUSTRATION

Mr. J. R. Rathebe, executive secretary, Y.M.C.A. services with the N.M.C., said he was speaking in a private capacity only. He had had much opportunity of talking to Africans in the U.D.F., both in and outside the Union. 9-15-45

He felt that Africans would experience a sense of frustration if called on to return to their pre-war employment, as the Army had in many cases made them fit for more skilled employment.

The African was disappointed at his treatment in regard to demobilisation privileges, which were far less than those enjoyed by European men and women and Cape Coloured men.

Replying to questions, Major McConkey denied that African soldiers had been treated with discrimination. Much of the criticism of the Directorate of Demobilisation was due to misunderstanding of its function. It was not a ministry of economic reconstruction. Special Bantu employment bureaux for ex-volunteers were being set up, and the one in Johannesburg had already found employment for 2,000 men.

War Criminals And Ethiopia

Pittsburgh Courier—Penn.

Following Ethiopia's liberation in December 1941, Emperor Haile Selassie submitted to the British Government a list of Italian war criminals responsible for the bombing of defenseless black men, women and children during the unprovoked aggression against his people in 1936 and 1937. 2-10-45

Heading the list submitted by Haile Selassie to the British is Mussolini, and then comes General Badoglio, erstwhile Duke of Addis Ababa, the Italian Army leader, Marshal Emilio de Bono, and his successor, Marshal Rodolfo Graziani. Ethiopia also wants for trial, the traitor Ras Haile Selassie Gugsa, who went over to the Italians in 1936, and is now in British hands.

Ethiopia's list was considered by the British, but it is said that "personalities" entered into the decision that no action be taken. 2-10-45

It is said that the Ethiopians sought Britain's aid on war criminals because the 1942 agreement between the two countries contained a clause whereby Britain would lend support to the Negro country's claims against Italy and it was assumed by Ethiopia (naively, of course) that this included war criminals.

Significantly that clause was left out of the new agreement signed last year.

The Allies do not yet have Benito Mussolini, instigator of the unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia, but they do have Marshal Badoglio, Ras Gugsa and the rest of the Italian Fascist war criminals, and could turn them over to Ethiopia tomorrow for trial, but refuse to do so.

If there is sincerity about punishing war criminals, the confidence of the free world in Allied pronouncements would be buoyed immensely of the United Nations would turn over the Italian war criminals to Ethiopian courts for trial.

Is this just and logical step being withheld because the Ethiopians are colored and the war criminals are white?

Ethiopia Lists War Criminals

Pittsburgh Courier
Pgh. Penn.
2-10-45

Mussolini and Badoglio Head List; Selassie's Son-in-Law Also Named

LONDON — With Benito Mussolini and Marshal Badoglio heading the list of Italian war criminals submitted by Ethiopia after that country's liberation in 1941, the British Government as yet has taken no action on the subject and still hold in their custody the Royal traitor, Ras Haile Selassie Gugsa, Emperor Selassie's son-in-law.

While Selassie's Government holds little expectancy of Mussolini being turned over to them for trial it is known that they do lay first claim to Badoglio as a war criminal for primary responsibility in the use of poison gas against Ethiopian soldiers and civilians after he took command in the field from Marshal Emilio de Bono.

GRAZIANI SHOT RAS DESTA

Marshal Rodolfo Graziana also was high on the Ethiopian war crimes list for using gas against soldiers of the Negus and for ordering the court-martial and shooting in an Addis Ababa street of Ras Desta Demtu, captured leader of a native army, and another son-in-law of the Emperor.

Haile Selassie's government sought the aid of Britain on Italian war criminals on the basis of an agreement made between the two countries in 1942 whereby Britain would lend support to Ethiopian claims aaginst Italy.

It presumably was assumed by the African power that this agreement extended to war criminals. However, that clause was left out of the new agreement signed last year.

NAMES TOO BIG

The Ethiopian list was submitted through the British legation at Addis Ababa and an informed diplomat in London said that he believed the last went before the highest British councils because of the names it contained and added, "but apparently, personalities entered into the decision to take no action."

"Personalities" dealing with certain issues recently led to the resignation of Sir Cecil Hurst as chairman of the United Nations War Crimes Commission and it is reported that Ethiopia's petition for a place on the Commission was being favorably received by the British until the names on her crime list were seen.

Due to the fact that Badoglio did return Italy to the fold of the Allies to finally war against the Axis, Selassie's Government holds little hope of bringing him to trial in their courts. However, they insist that they should face an international court for the part he played in the crime against Ethiopia.

ETHIOPIA AWAITS WAR CRIME ACTION

New York Times

British Are Said to Ignore List of Italians Named and to Retain Royal Traitor

1-31-45

By SYDNEY GRUSON

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Jan. 30—The British Government has taken no action on the list of Italian war criminals submitted by Ethiopia after that country's liberation in December, 1941, and so far has refused to hand over the leading Ethiopian traitor captured by the British while he was fighting against the Allies in 1940 and who happens to be a son-in-law of Emperor Haile Selassie.

The Ethiopian list, headed by Benito Mussolini and Marshal Pietro Badoglio, contained numerous other names of Italians whom Haile Selassie wants returned to stand trial for crimes committed during the Italian conquest of Ethiopia during 1935-36. The list was submitted through the British legation at Addis Ababa.

An informed diplomat here said tonight he believed that the list went before the highest British councils because of the names it contained, "but, apparently, personalities entered into the decision to take no action."

Chairman's Resignation Cited

This diplomat compared the consideration of "personalities" with the issues that recently led to the resignation of Sir Cecil Hurst as chairman of the United Nations War Crimes Commission.

It is reported here, without confirmation, that Ethiopia asked for a place on the commission and that the idea was favorably received by the British until they saw the names on the Ethiopian list.

It is known that a formal request has not reached the commission itself and that the commission was never asked to consider the cases of Italian criminals named by Ethiopia.

While the Ethiopians did not expect Mussolini to be returned to them for trial, they considered—and still do—that they have first claim on Badoglio. It was Badoglio, they charge, who was primarily responsible for the use of poison gas against Ethiopian soldiers and civilians after he took command in the field from Marshal Emilio de Bono.

The Ethiopians are said to be maintaining their position that Badoglio should be returned to Ethiopia, or placed on trial before an international court, despite the fact that he took Italy from the Axis camp and brought it into the war on the side of the Allies. They recognize, however, that these facts arel ikely to make their case less promising.

The traitor held by the British is Ras Haile Selassie Gugsa, who went over to the Italians in 1936. Thee Ethiopians asked that he be surrendered, but he is still being held as a British prisoner of war somewhere in Africa.

Marshal Rodolfo Graziani, who led the Italian armies in the Ethiopian campaign, also was high on the list of criminals for using poison gas against the Ethiopian army led by Ras Desta Demtu, another of the Emperor's sons-in-law, and for ordering the court-martial and shooting in an Addis Ababa street of Ras Desta when he was captured. 1-31-45

The Ethiopians sought Britain's aid on war criminals because the 1942 agreement between the two countries contained a clause whereby Britain would lend support to Ethiopian claims against Italy and it was assumed by Ethiopia that this included war criminals. That clause was left out of the new agreement signed last year.

ETHIOPIA AVENGED!

Pittsburgh Courier
5-12-45
Pittsburgh, Penn

By ROI OTTLEY

Special Correspondent

MILAN, Italy—(By Cable)—The rapist of Ethiopia . . . Benito Mussolini . . . died at the hands of furious Partisans. Ethiopia is avenged. I saw the butchered body of Il Duce lying in a crematory. The arrogant face had been smashed. His remains were thrown into a pine box sprinkled with sawdust . . . This was indeed the "Sawdust Caesar."

The people rejoiced. They wanted me to rejoice with them. I did. I was the only Negro in Milan that day. People walked up to me, stroked my face and said: "Nice black man."

They learned that I was an American. They were elated. I was taken to the remains of Mussolini by two Partisan guards. They kept saying: "Il Duce, he no good for your people."

TALKED OF JOE LOUIS, JACK JOHNSON 5-12-45

Then they pointed to my skin. The only Negroes they talked about were Joe Louis and Jack Johnson. They asked me whether I knew them. People invited me to their home, where I drank wine and lifted toasts to a new Italy. Somehow, they did not associate me with the Ethiopians, once they learned I was an American.

Actually, Milan has not seen many Negroes. Certainly, few during the Fascist regime. No man in history had a more ignominious end. Certainly Mussolini courted a violent death. He was unmourned by his people. Some spat when his name was mentioned. Swarms of people gathered outside the crematory to get a view of the remains. This was merely curiosity, for Milan had a festive air. Mussolini's henchmen, numbering 16, were thrown about the floor of the crematory. They too had died violent deaths. They had been stabbed, shot, bludgeoned . . . and a horrible stench emerged from their bodies.

RACE-BAITER HANGED

Starce, Mussolini's fierce race-baiter, was hanged by his feet in the Piazza Loreto and shot. This form of hanging is accorded criminals. He was the man who justified the invasion of Africa and the subjugation of its people on the principle that Africans are inferior people.

WEST AFRICAN MAP MAKERS CHARTING BURMA JUNGLE

Pittsburgh Courier 7-10-43

BURMA—(ANF)—Soldiers from Nigeria and the Gold Coast, besides helping to drive the Japanese out of Burma, are making maps of country hitherto unsurveyed. More than 300 square miles of the Arakan jungle, formerly mapped only on small-scale sheets, can now be studied and patrolled from large scale maps, thanks to the work of a West African division's survey section.

Africans Capture Hitler's Hide-Out

Pittsburgh Courier
5-12-45
Hgh-yp.

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Courier London Correspondent)
5-12-45

LONDON — (Censored)— By Cable — Eboue's "Black Devils" captured Hitler's eagle's nest, situated amidst steep Alpine crags near Berchtesgaden. Of all the ironies in this war, it is the most ironical that Africans — derogatorially described as "semi-apes" in "Mein Kampf"— should be the first Allied troops to fly their battle-torn Tri-Color, brought all the way from Africa over the late Fuehrer's lair.

It is an event that would have warmed the cockles of the heart of Governor Eboue had he lived to witness this triumphant day. The news caused the greatest delight and satisfaction among London's colored community, especially Africans.

STORMED BY PICKED TROOPS

According to information reaching French military circles in London, picked units recruited from French Equatorial Africa who took part in North African and Normandy campaigns under General LeClerc, stormed into Hitler's hideout.

A party of black warriors, led by Lieutenant Catlin, waded through snow, neck-deep, to arrive on the scene ahead of advance columns of the American Seventh Army. Africans found the eagle's nest a shambles, caused by RAF bombing. To celebrate the occasion, Africans collected specially goldbound copies of "Mein kampf" from what remained of Hitler's library, which they intend taking back to Africa to show their countrymen what so-called "semi-apes" had done to the "superior master race."

Other souvenirs reported collected by Africans include Goering uniforms, medals and hats.

Work Of West African Air Corps Is Praised

4-12-45
West African Pilot
2-6-45

FREETOWN, April 11.— Two prominent citizens here and a member of the West African Air Corps were given an opportunity of expressing their opinion of the work of the W. A. A. C. which some citizens recently inspected at Jui R. A. F. Station.

The Hon. the First Urban Member, Mr Otto I. E. Oyekan During, Barrister-at-Law, was the first speaker at the microphone at the Freetown Broadcast Studio. 4-12-45

He was much impressed by the range and quality of work which these Sierra Leone Airmen were doing at Jui, and saw in the development of civil aviation in West Africa the only way out for these men to obtain permanent employment after the war.

One of his reactions to his first air view of Freetown was to give credit to those who planned and laid out the city.

In his opinion, what was needed by way of improvement was the widening of some of the streets of the city.

The next speaker was Dr Raymond S. Easmon, M.B., B.S., a private Medical Practitioner. 4-12-45

Dr Easmon was as much impressed by the politeness of the R. A. F. officers and men as he was by his first flight over his home town

The flight would, he thought, leave the memory of a great and enduring experience.

When Flight-Sergeant T. P. Wyndham-Davies came to the "mike," listeners heard the voice of the first Sierra Leonean to rise to that rank in the R. A. F. in this country.

The Flight-Sergeant spoke about the life of an African airman from the time he joined up to the time he passed out as a qualified technician.

There is a varied assortment of trades to be learnt, and jobs to be done. 4-12-45

The welfare arrangements are also good.

His one year in the W.A.A.C. has been a happy one for him.

Adaptability, Fighting Ability, Loyalty Praised

Atlanta, Georgia
7-12-45

Helped Drive Jap Hordes Back Thru Burma To China

Atlanta Daily World

By A BRITISH OFFICER SERVING WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND

BURMA— (ANP) — Hausamen, Fulanis, Ashantis and a hundred other tribes of British West Africa have been at war at Burma in the type of country which they appreciate and understand. The dark shadows and dense undergrowth of the jungle are their natural allies and well do they use them.

The Royal West African Frontier force was the first British colonial force to engage the enemy overseas. As the call went out by drum and poster to village and town jungle and plain, Christians, Mohammedans and pagans from Britain's West African colonies came forward to train in secret and to build up a formidable fighting force while the battles of Europe North Africa and the far east raged. In mid-1943 the 81st division sailed for India, having accomplished their mobilization in half the normal time. Their arrival was opportune, since the Japanese were hammering at the frontiers of India in the ill-fated "Drive on Delhi." By December, 1943, the division moved to fighting their first war of modern weapons.

HIGHLY ADAPTABLE

One of the West Africans' virtues lay in their adaptability Silende, endurance, invisibility, all were used to the full.

In the Arakan the Japanese was allowed no peace, though the main battle line was comparatively static. He was taught the fear which comes from a perpetual looking over the shoulder, the discomfort which results from lines of communication harried by fast moving raids. With the sea on their left flank and easy beaches, the Japanese were particularly vulnerable to night raids-and no one was better at taking advantage of this than the West African. With eyes trained to see through the densest night feet (often bare) which moved without sound, swift and brutal in-fighting-a legacy from tribal warfare, he made the hinterland of the Arakan behind the Japanese lines a terror to its occupiers.

In the meantime, six Nigerian columns marched with the "Chindit" division through the "Stilwell" jungles of North Burma inside the Myitkuina-Mawlu-Kamaing triangle. Through forced marches, mountain climbs, assault and backs-to-wall sieges, their iron physique bore them with cheerful ease. 7-12-45

INFECTIOUS SMILES

One brigadier said that many of his wounded, whom the Nigerians had carried to safety, owed their lives to their infectious smiles of cheer and encouragement. And they had their own particular difficulties which militated against cheerfulness —a full or contented stomach is the best tonic for a fighting man, yet up to the fifth month of this campaign, the West Africans had no more than half-a-dozen meals of cornflour or rice-their staple diet.

The difficulties of supply forbade bulk, and it was the day of the American "K" ration, and though to white troops this was satisfying to the West Africans it was an extra burden, as their officers, who had seen them in west coast days, well know. Many a Nigerian in disgust at the very sight of concentrated food, went without breakfast and ate only half a lunch in order to ensure one good hot bellyful at sunset. But the smiles abated not a whit. 7-12-45

In the Arakan war of 1944-45 the 81st division vanquished from the Mayu range, to bob up again in the Kaladin valley, that remote and desperately difficult region.

Flogging of African Troops to Continue

Special

It may not be generally known in this country that England still administers floggings to its African troops in various theatres of war. This fact was brought out in an article in "The African Standard" of January 26, official organ of the West African Youth League in Sierra Leone. The article, which was written by the Standard's London correspondent, stated:

"Despite repeated efforts on the part of certain Labor members of the Parliament, headed by the Rev. Reginald Sorenson, to try and get British military authorities to abolish the practice of flogging East and West African troops, many of whom are now fighting against the Japanese at Burma, Sir James Grigg, War Minister, has now informed the House of Commons that 'we have come to the conclusion that it would be unwise to abolish corporal punishment at this juncture'."

The article goes on to state further that Sir James revealed this discussion when he replied to a question put on the Order Paper inquiring whether the Secretary of State can now state the result of his consideration of the need of reducing the number of offenses committed by "our Colonial troops, for which corporal punishment can be administered, and whether he is now prepared to abolish this form of punishment as in the case with white troops."

CASES REDUCED

Replying on behalf of the War Office, states the article, Sir James said, in part:

"The main question at issue is whether corporal punishment is, in fact, a deterrent to the commission of the crime for which it is inflicted, of such value that its abolition would seriously impair military discipline.

"It is the deterrent effect which matters, because the actual infliction of corporal punishment has been reduced to a very small proportion. In East Africa, the figure is 3 per cent or 1 in 1,250 per annum, and in West Africa, the corresponding figure is 5 per cent or 1 in 2,000 per annum.

"It must be borne in mind that African troops are drawn from a civil population which is subject to corporal punishment. Moreover, as a result of rapid expansion of the force, the maintenance of discipline in the new armies recruited in East and West Africa presents a special problem. It is important to take no step which would impair the efficiency of our African troops at this state of the war; and for this one reason, we have come to the conclusion that it would be unwise to abolish corporal punishment at this juncture."

Africans Draw Allied Praise In Burma Fight

Close Comradeship With Soldiers From America Is Cited

BY A. P. PEARCE

BURMA — (A N P) — The sign of the Black Tarantula is over Burma. It is the insignia of the fighting men of British West Africa, and it means trouble for the Japanese.

Since the end of 1943, units of the volunteer Royal West African Frontier force — the first to go into battle outside the African continent — have been in close fighting comradeship with soldiers from Britain, the United States and other allied countries, against the Japanese invaders in Burma.

In some of the toughest fighting in the world, the West Africans are making their sign feared by the enemies, and respected by hetir friends.

DENY INDIA GATEWAY

In Arakan, the West Africans have for long helped to deny to the Japanese one of the most important gateways into India. But before the West Africans could fight the Japanese, they had to get to them. Their engineers were faced with a country of razor-backed mountains covered with dense tropical jungle, and with swift-flowing rivers always barring a direct line of advance.

But a hunter of the Burma hills came to the West Africans with a story of an elephant track over the mountains. From this track grew 75 miles long road jeep—the famous "West African way." To make it meant backing through bamboo jungle, blasting through rock, bridging rivers never bridged before and cutting stairways up impossible slopes.

But at last Sgt. Arkhurst from the Gold Coast could say: "We have finished building roads; we must get to the enemy in his lair, and we aim to beat him there."

Along the West African way went the 81st (West African) division to fight the Japanese. It is only a young division, but already stories of gallantry have gathered round it. A Gold Coast platoon, for example, led a bayonet charge immediately after wading neck-deep across a river.

TAUNTED BY JAPS

The Japanese had taunted them, crying: "Gold Coast! Gold Coast!" Roaring back: "We'll give you Gold Coast!", the Africans swept forward. They took first one trench and then another at the point of the bayonet. They fought a running action up a Burmose chaung — a wide, deep jungle ditch "as black as the pit" — Against sniping from overhead. They carried the charge along a precipice edge, where there was only room for single file pursuit and routed the enemy completely.

Japanese losses were five to one. The enemy had been given "Gold Coast" with a venegeance.

Meanwhile, other West African troops were supporting British and Indian land operations by light, to spy out enemy positions, to destroy supplies and strong poscitions, and then to withdraw.

One such party was composed of two West Africans led by a Sierra Leone comrade, David Lahai. They made their landing and successfully wiped out a Japanese machine gun nest. They could well have withdrawn now, but, hopefully of further action, they lay in wait in the very center of the Japanese lines. Before dawn they killed more Japanese, and then at last slipped away home again.

West Africans are everywhere fighting in close cooperation with British and allied forces, but nowhere is comradeship closer than in the Chindit operations in Northern Burma.

Nigarians fought side by side with soldiers of British regiments in the bitter struggle that has made White City the "Tobruk of the East." These West Africans were asked for by the late Maj-Gen Wingate himself to form part of his special force, trained for long range jungle penetration.

Africans in Man-to-Man Jungle War with Japs

By SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BURMA (ANP) — The deadly man-for-man jungle war, in which the bravery and daring of Nigerian troops is outstanding, continues on the outskirts of Paletiva, Arakan between Japs and the 81st West African Division.

A demonstration of the art of the "one-man" war was given recenlty by Lance Cpl. Halidu Dangena who went out for three nights in succession and blew bugle calls at the edge of the wire perimeter of the Japanese positions to give them the creeps.

Leads Attack on Enemy

The fourth night he led an attack which captured three slit trenches after breaking through the defenses at the very place where he had played "Come to the Cookhouse" the night before.

Outstanding among the stories of daring is that of three Siorra Leoneans who lead an attack on enemy strong points on precipitous Frontier hill. One took a Brongun the second the spare magazines, and the third a primed grenade in each hand.

Emerging right into the enemy's field of fire. I saw those bunkers the next day. There was not an inch round the firing slits which did not bear a bullet mark.

No Vehicles Used

Not least astounding about the advance of the 81st Division is the fact that every mile advanced means scores of miles covered in patrolling.It has all been done on foot. There is not a single vehicle with these men.

Supplies are brought in mainly by air. Wounded are flown out by Moth anrcraft from strips hacked out of the dense undergrowth by the auxiliary troops. Casualties have had to be carried down sheer percipices to get them to the strip.

I walked into a casualty clearing station. There was an operation going on in a bamboo basha with no walls it had been erected 24 hours before.

The surgeon was masked, gloved and overalled, but from the rear one cold see the beads of perspiration pouring down his bare back.

As I began this paragraph an air attack had just begun. The RAF is co-operating nobly. It is hardly credible that among all this mass of evergreen undergrowth they can pick the right place but their accuracy is uncanny.

Adaptability, Fighting Ability, Loyalty Praised

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By A BRITISH OFFICER SERVING WITH SOUTH EAST ASIA COMMAND

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British Information

"MR. FIVE BY FIVE"

Ten tons of sterculiaceous exhilaration.

Pioneer W. African Troops Cited for Action in Burma

BURMA—The first to go into battle outside the African continent, units of the volunteer Royal West African Frontier Force have been pushing the Japanese from Burma, receiving commendations for their fighting prowess as they push ahead.

In order to reach the enemy occupying the Arakan Coast, the soldiers had to hack through bamboo jungles, blast through mountains and bridge rivers before they could build roads to facilitate the advance.

Typical is the action of a Gold Coast platoon of the young 81st Division which took trench after trench at bayonet point. Although impeded by a wide, deep jungle ditch and snipers, they carried the charge along a precipice to completely rout the enemy.

Surrounded by Enemy

On another occasion, two West Africans, led by a Sierra Leone comrade, wiped out a machine gun nest. Hopeful of further action, they waited in the center of the enemy lines, killed several more and slipped away shortly before dawn.

Because of their tactics, the West Africans have been sought by British and Allied commanders. Nigerians, who aided in the British capture of White City, were requested by the late Major General Wingate for his special jungle force.

Fly for First Time.

A Nigerian sergeant major told how West African Chindits, flying for the first time, reached Northern Burma, where in two days of continuous marching or fighting, they captured a village, ambushed a road and killed over forty Japs.

Actions of the British, Ghurkas and Chindits, who have killed the enemy, destroyed his supplies and broken his communications time and time again, have contributed greatly to the advance of General Sultan's forces farther north.

GOLD COAST

Halftime

Five years ago His fun-loving Highness Sarikin Katsina Alhajk Osman Nagogo breezed off to London with his father, the elderly Emir of Katsina, to play polo, back race horses and greyhounds. Last month friendly, easygoing Nagogo, now Emir himself and ruler of a million Nigerian Mohammedans, was called abroad on more serious business. Thousands of uniformed West Africans, fighting the war in Southeast Asia, wanted to gladden their hearts and rejoice their eyes with the sight of their rich and powerful leader.

In India and Burma the young, amiable Emir displayed his sacred person freely to his grateful subjects. Some of his fighting men, overcome by awe, knelt before him to be blessed. Others begged to touch the hem of his robe or (when he wore a uniform) the cuffs of his well-creased trousers. Six Katsinans trekked four days & nights through the jungle to glimpse the red-fezzed head of their Emir. Sergeant Gombo Gombe ("Mr. Five by Five"), fattest front-line fighter in Burma, stripped to the waist to get his rifle immaculate enough to fire a royal salute.

Before he departed, the Emir, an astute ruler, made a wise gift to his men: ten tons of bitter, exhilarating kola nuts from the sterculiaceous African tree. Morale soared. On kola nuts and water Katsinans can tackle anything—hunger, fatigue, forced marches, or the most vicious enemy. Roaring their traditional cry of *Hau!*, the kola-inspired warriors swarmed down the Kaladan Valley, won their biggest victory of the Burma war.

Burma Fighters Train East Africans

The Gold Coast Independent

By MILITARY OBSERVER

Accra, Gold Coast & West Africa

AS the war in Europe approached its last hours thousands of East African troops were engaged in a large scale exercise in the wild and desolate country to the north of Archer's Post. Officers with battle experience in the Burmese jungle some of them left South East Asia only a few weeks ago played a major part, and the entire scheme, known as Exercise Chindwin was under the overall control of a former commander of the celebrated IIth (E.A.) Division.

Such was the barren terrain chosen that, apart from an occasional tribesman, the sole onlookers were herds of game which tampeded as 25 pounders howitzers and mortars, using live ammunition at some stages of the battle, roared out to drwn the chatter of hundreds of machine guns, rifles and tommy guns.

For the first time in East Africa a Bailey Bridge of any size was thrown across a river. It stretched for 140 feet.

The idea behind the exercise was to practise our troops in mobile operations against a retreating enemy, represented by a token force of battalion strength, with particular emphasis on the crossing of water obstacles. Troops from Kenya, Nyasaland and Uganda took part.

In the words of one of the umpires The troops did extremely well. There of course minor error, as was expected, but on the whole results were satisfactory.

At times the men were restricted to one bottle of water per man per day, and once a company, far from any stream, went through 24 hours with a half bottle. In the hot and dusty country in which they were operating this was no joke, but they stood up to it really well.

The defenders had a hard time, particularly during the day. In the open stretches of arid country observation was comparatively easy, so the defenders often had to 'stay put' for hours at a stretch and weren't allowed to walk about.

Commanding the attackers was a senior officer who commanded a brigade in the Guards Armoured Division when that formation (which played such an important part in the defeat of Germany) came into being. He made full use of his supporting arms

Cites Bravery, Heroism of African Troops in Burma

Balt, Md.
Afro-American 3-6-45

By MAJ. S. E. ACKROYD

(British Army officer who has traveled widely in the Far East; he has first-hand knowledge of the Burma Campaign.)

SOMEWHERE IN BURMA — (ANP)—A torchlight procession of sick and wounded trudges and limps on through the jungle. There are 16 stretcher cases, 40 sick and walking wounded, 220 West African carriers, ambulance orderlies and an escort.

This is the writhing, jungle-smothered valley of the Pi Chaung, western tributary of the Kaladian River in the Burmese Arakan above Akyab. No story has ever better illustrated the fantastic nature of the Burma campaign of the 81st West African division.

It was told to me by Maj. G. K. Beatty of Chester, England, commander of a West African field ambulance company. The only other medical officer present was Capt. A. M. Dixon of Marple. Other Europeans were a Catholic padre and three sergeants from England, Scotland and Ireland.

Torturous Two-Day March

The column marched for two days, carried casualties over two 2,000-foot mountains, had to rebuild the rotten bamboo bridges it found at each gallery and stream and on one occasion had to make a ladder down which stretchers were passed hand over hand.

On the second day it took 14½ hours to cover the last seven miles of a journey which from start to finish was only 10 miles on the map. Starting on November 16, the party crossed several bridges before evening after immense climbing. The last patients were in by 5 p.m.

Scales 1200-Foot Cliff

The next day, off by 7 a.m., the column had to descend a cliff of rock and loose earth 1200 feet high, an extra man holding each stretcher, while another bearer climbed down and took hold again.

Major Beatty continued:

"We got the last man to the bottom of the cliff by 4:45 p.m., but we had to go on, for there was no water at this point. We began to trek along a precipice edge, with a cliff face of several hundred feet dropping sheer below us, and along a path varying between 8 and 18 inches wide.

"We had to make our way along by light of torches and bamboo flares. If Sierra Leonan troops had not come up from the next village, we should never have made it. It was pitch dark when we finally reached harbor and the end of a nightmare journey by 9:39."

Superhuman Strength

Normally for such a journey there would be 8 carriers per stretcher case to carry equipment and food. On this march, however, there were only 60 carriers available for the entire column each of whom showed superhuman strength and pluck.

A Nigerian sergeant, Sylvester Octulu, Onotulu, of Abe Juta, supervised the marching and said it was the worst march he had ever made. He waited to see the last man in safely.

Senegalese Again Big Aid to France

Balt, Md.
Afro-American 3-6-45

By NANCY CUNARD

LONDON (ANP) — France's Senegalese troops are much in the fighting again, playing an active role in the victorious drive to the Rhine.

A French officer told me the other day here: "So many are to be seen in Alsace that our national slogan, 'Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite,' has been changed in these parts to 'Liberte, Fraternite, Sen-egalite!'"

Behind this quip of the French soldiery are terse, cabled facts such as: "French and Colonial troops from Senegal, Morocco, Algeria, were under General Bothouart in an attack which gained all objectives, freeing nine towns and villages."

Made LeClerc's Word Good

What General LeClerc said to his officers and African volunteers from French Congo, Senegal and other French African possessions in 1942-43 during the great sweep up from Lake Chad to the North African coast where he joined with General Montgomery's forces, soon to enter Tunisia, has now come true.

LeClerc, a cavalry captain in 1940, is the great military French leader of one of the most remarkable feats in the war.

His army, very largely composed of Africans (as can be seen in all the pictures of his campaign), started from thousands-of-miles-distant Equatorial Africa towards the freeing of France.

His words were: "Our aim is Paris. We will keep on till we reach it. Then, on to Strasburg." And this he and his army have magnificently done.

Patrol Porter Ill.
1-10-45
Chicago Daily Tribune



Native boy of Buka passage district of Bougainville, who acts as a porter for a marine patrol in the Southwest Pacific. It is taboo for a woman to see him—until he is married—without the blue and red headpiece. [Wide World Photo.]

100,000 Strong! West Africans Fighting Japan

Pittsburgh Courier
3-17-45 Pgh. Pa.

By GEORGE PADMORE

(London Correspondent)

LONDON (Censored)—Until this week military security prevented me from disclosing the number of African troops recruited from Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone and Gambia, fighting against the Japanese in Burma.

Now that the War Office ban has been lifted, I am able to reveal that over 100,000 colored men are serving with the West African Expeditionary Forces as part of Lord Louis Mounbatten's Southeast Asia Command. Some of these troops constitute the crack Eighty-second West African Division now fighting their way across Burma on the Arakan front. 3-17-45

Apart from these West Africans an equally large contingent of East Africans—the exact number has not been disclosed—are also in Burma. They come from Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia and comprise the King's Royal East African Rifles. Before they were transferred to Asia the East Africans fought throughout the Abyssinia and Somaliland campaigns and occupied Madagascar when that island was under Vichy.

ONE COMMISSIONED

All these African troops are under white officers. There is only one African commissioned officer attached to the West African Frontier Force. He is Lieut. Seth K. Anthony, a native of the Gold Coast. 3-17-45

BANTUS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Unlike the East and West Africans as well as the West Indians, the Bantu troops from South Africa are not going to Asia. Hundreds of them are now arriving in England on their way home. They were prisoners of war held by the Germans in Italy and other parts of the Western Europe front. These men are not combat troops as it is against the policy of the South African government under Field Marshal Smuts to arm Zulus and other Bantu Africans. They serve as labor battalions, ambulance units, army transport and pioneer corps.

Call For Pan-African Parley In Paris Drafted By British Colonials

Chicago Defender 3-17-45

By GEORGE PADMORE

(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—Whatever can be said about colored folks in other lands, those living in Great Britain are on the march. They are determined to make their voices heard in the council of nations. 3-19-45

Inspired by the visit to this country of colored leaders from various parts of Britain's far-flung empire to the recent World Trade Union Conference, the numerous colored peoples' organizations in this country are getting together as never before to present a united front in matters affecting the fundamental interests of colored peoples the world over.

Now that a provisional committee to prepare a world Pan-African Conference in Paris next September is agreed upon between the union representatives from Africa, the West Indies, British Guiana and the colored organizations in Great Britain, the committee has been busy at work during the past week and has summoned a meeting to take place in London at an early date for the purpose of discussing the manifesto which the provisional committee has drafted as a "call to action." 3-17-45

When the document is completed and ratified by the participating organizations, I understand that it will be sent to the NAACP in America, requesting the leaders of with the close and continuing collaboration of all peace-loving peoples that organization take the initiative to call together representatives of all colored organizations to set up an over-all committee to prepare the American delegation to meet with representatives from Africa, the West Indies, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, Liberia, Abyssinia and other countries to decide upon final plans.

Fraternal delegates from India, China, the Arab countries of the Middle East will also be invited to participate. Sympathetic white organizations will also be invited to send observers as non-voting delegates to the Paris conference.

Text of Draft Manifesto

The following is the text of the draft manifesto which will be presented to the participating organizations as a basis for the conference call:

"The decision of the Crimea Conference represent the consolidation of the alliance of the three Great Powers—Great Britain, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the final phase of the war of liberation against Hitlerite Germany.

"They demonstrate the unity and singleness of purpose of the anti-fascist powers to destroy militarism and Nazism and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world. The decisions aim also at the prevention of any future aggression and at the removal of the political, economic and social causes of war.

Dawn of a New Epoch

"The dawn of a new epoch in world relations is thus breaking. Only on the basis of the unity of purpose and of action which has made victory in the war possible can the United Nations can the for the lion inhabitants and immense wealth must command the attention of the international organization. The rapid economic development of an International Organization and the advancement of the social standards of the more advanced nations joined together in collaboration to promote world prosperity and the happiness of mankind."

Africa—Land of Imperialism

Turning to Africa, the drafters of the manifesto say: "The vast continent of Africa with its 160 million inhabitants and immense wealth must command the attention of the international organization. The rapid economic development, industrialization and the advancement of the social standards of the more advanced nations joined together in collaboration to promote world prosperity and the happiness of mankind."

"Africa is a land of varied political, economic interests and social and cultural standards. This situation is complicated by the fact that among the powers with imperial possessions in Africa are Fascist Spain and Fascist Portugal. The United Nations pledged to secure the world millions of people from poverty, disease, squalor ignorance. Their continued low standards of life constitute a serious threat to the standards of people everywhere and represent a powerful challenge to the financial and technological resources of

3-17-45

cure the moral and political as well as the military defeat of Fascism must also eliminate the influence of the Spanish and Portugese Fascist regimes, in order that international collaboration and peaceful planning for the future of Africa shall proceed in conditions free from conflict and favorable to such collaboration."

Six Demands For Solution

In the belief that it is the eager desire of the United Nations to begin with the least possible delay the solutions of these problems, the Manifesto demands:

1. That the international organization should immediately adopt policies and set up all necessary machinery to secure the uniform and rapid development of the economic, social and cultural life of the African peoples; 3-17-45

2. That guided by the principle of equal rights for all men and recognizing that the success of any scheme will depend on the measure to which Africans themselves participate, steps should be taken for the provision of maximum opportunity for such participation at all level of administration.

The present inferior political, economic and social status of the African peoples militates against the achievement of harmonious cooperation among the peoples, which cooperation demands the abolition of every kind of discrimination on account of color, race and creed.

3. The present system of exploitation by which the bulk of the wealth produced in Africa goes to enrich foreign monopoly firms and individuals must be replaced by systematic planning and development whereby in the first place the Africans themselves shall be the principal beneficiaries of the wealth produced, that an equal opportunity shall be afforded to all nations in the exchange of products. In this regard an international council representative of producer and consumer interests for the stabilization of commodity prices at levels ensuring reasonable returns to producers and satisfaction in quantity and equality to consumers should be established.

4. Simultaneously with economic development steps should be taken to associate Africans with the management of their own affairs with a view towards the achievement of full self-government within a definite time limit.

5. The eradication of mass illiteracy calls for energetic measures no less sustained than those which aim at the ending of poverty, disease and squalor. The greater the spread of education for both children and adults the greater will be the pace of advancement of the peoples as a whole.

6. The former Italian colonies now under military rule should have the same treatment as the rest of the African territories and shall be given every assistance in development along with these other territories on the road to full self-government. 3-17-45

The Manifesto concludes by reminding the United Nations of Africa's contribution to the war effort. It says:

"We believe that the African peoples by their contribution in manpower and material resources in the war against Fascism; by their service in Ethiopia, East Africa, the Western Desert, Italy and in the battle of Germany; by the labor in factory, field, mine and on the high seas; and by the present service in Burma in the eastern war against Japan, have earned the right to expect that they shall benefit as a result of the new concept of international cooperation which has been achieved in the course of the grim ordeal of the war of liberation against Fascism."

First to Defy Hitler

Baltimore, Md.
afro-American
5-12-45



The late Governor Felix Eboue of French Equatorial Africa, who is credited with being the first to defy Hitler by leading his province in the Free French Government.

Felix Eboue Led Africa Into Camp of Allies

Baltimore, Md.
Afro-American

One of the outstanding figures who came into bold relief during the transition period when the Allied Nations were turning from defensive to offensive warfare was Felix Eboue, black governor general of French Equatorial Africa. With Quisling's collaborators siding with Hitler in many countries and Europeans ready to concede the supremacy of the Nazis in many lands, the stand taken by Eboue one of the first to defy the Germans, was heartening.

Eboue was named governor general in 1940 and held authority over three and one half million people in an area of one million square miles, the third largest political division of North Africa.

He is credited with doing more than any other man to lead Africa to the Allies by siding with the Free French forces of General Charles De Gaulle.

Defied Vichy 5-12-45

Under his leadership, 15,000 crack colonial troops in the Chad province struck the first blow for French liberation by preventing a junction between the Italian Libyan army and the Italian forces in Ethiopia after the fall of France to Hitler.

By thus defying the orders of the Vichy governmer who sought to collaborate with the Nazi he not only took that rich colony out of the grasp of Hitler but set an example followed by the French Congo, the Cameroons at Ubangi-Safari.

At the height of his career, Eboue died at Cairo, Egypt, on May 17, 1944. Not only did Eboue make a contribution to the Allied cause but he is honored and revered by all Africans for his battle for "Africa for Africans."

By an agreement with the French government at Brazzaville shortly before his death, he won assurance that French colonials would be elevated to full social and economic equality with whites.

Queen Salote, 45, towering (6 ft. 3 in.) ruler of the Central Pacific's tiny Tonga Islands, was awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. The Empire's only other queen besides Elizabeth, she aided the Allied cause with a 500-strong handful of native warriors, some $500,000, and two Spitfires. 11-5-45 Time



Chicago, Ill. August Hettig

QUEEN SALOTE
A cross for support.

Repatriates West Africa

ld 1945

PUBLIC OPINION

West African Pilot

REPATRIATION OF WEST AFRICANS IN FAR EAST

By A NIGERIAN SOLDIER 12905

I offer these few lines on the altar of that true human brotherhood, which makes no distinctions of race, creed, sex, cast or colour, with a view to instruct, warn and inspire those who may have any interest where West African troops are concerned, that it is earnestly hoped that at this tragic and critical period in human history that West African troops face as human beings and thus aid in their just solution for a quick repatriation. 3-6-45

One who has not seen may not believe how hard and difficult it is to live in this continent of Asia under its terrific monsoon, sticky summer and its months of cold and frozen seasons irrespective of her famine, short of food stuffs of all kinds and extraordinarily priced articles.

The West African troops have much difficulties here to face besides how they always complain of non-amenities, all of them are worried about asking their home governments.

(a) Where do the West African War Relief Funds go?

(b) Why are there no West African born welfare officers here?

(c) And how could they remain here in the Far East after the defeat of Nazi Germany with still low rates of pay? 3-6-45

(d) Has Nigeria got any Soldiers Comfort Funds at all?

The question that the West Africans have not lost families, homes and farms by enemy shells, as appeared in your West African Pilot of 11.10.44., is very inhuman, and has nothing at all to do with us. 3-6-45

If we the West African troops "the coloured people" fighting by the British side in the cause of freedom, hope for any thing, have we the right to ask "whose freedom"?

The writer of that article has no right to think or to suppose the West Africans to suffer the direct fate of Europe, while we are here doing all in our power, in every job that is put under our care, with zeal, hope and actual fate to wipe out the people's enemies from the face of the earth and to crown the British empire with success.

We still say that the article is very much discouraging.

Of course, it may be an idea of one man, therefore we must take heart until we hear what our home Governments may say in the near future as we are hoping for.

We are not mistaken to be here, while we hold the truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal. 3-6-45

Thanking you for the space allowed.

FAR EAST FORCES.

ld-1945 War Rehabilitation

Lagos Pressmen Tour The Rehabilitation Centre At Igbobi: Maimed Walk Again

That some of the maimed heroes from the Burma jungle will walk again is assured, for the Rehabilitation Centre at Igbobi is a miniature self contained township devoted entirely to orthopaedic science.

Making a tour of the vast estate, yesterday, members of the Lagos press, conducted by Major J R Allin, RAMC, Officer Commanding No. 1 West African Convalescent Wing, saw artificial limbs being fashioned out by ex Italian prisoners of war at the centre.

The Major was aided by Dr W. J. L. Perry, who explained that though trades were taught to the men, it was merely from the therapeutic point of view.

It is to help the men "re-educate their muscles."

The proper envisaged vocational training scheme, added the young medico, would be undertaken by the Labour Department.

Some of the many buildings in the centre include a gymnasium with a swimming pool, recreation rooms with libraries, dining rooms, and a number of domitories and wards.

Most of the men at the rehabilitation centre are cases from the Burma war theatre and a few from the Middle East theatre.

Said to be on a higher level than Lagos, Igbobi is an ideal spot for this human reconstruction work.

The air that abounds there is comparable with the ozone of the open spaces.

The number of buildings in the centre must, perhaps, be well over 30 or even 40.

That the work of the rehabilitation is of tremendous importance was soon gathered by the visitors, for not only are artificial limbs produced for amputees but every care is exercised to restore the minds back to normal.

This was evident by the many games, books and recreation facilities provided for the patients.

Among the occupations taught under the therapeutic scheme are weaving, cobbling, tailoring and millinery.

These occupations are undertaken by the men on voluntary basis only, there is no coersion.

Though it has not been completed yet the electro-therapy department is a modern type of building with sections for X-ray and operations.

Civilian tailors have been engaged to sew clothes for the men, in order to save the rehabilitated soldier from embarrassment often experienced by him in procuring clothes from outside.

Towards this, the soldier receives the sum of £2 clothing allowance on discharge and the entire transaction between him and the tailor is a private one.

The authorities are, however, constantly on the watch for profiteering.

Judging from the simple furniture and photographs of friends, wives, sons and daughters adorning the dressing tables of their dormitories, it seemed difficult to believe that these men had once more returned to the sentiments of civilian life.

It is understood that a similar centre has just been completed at Accra, Gold Coast and that one might also be built in Sierra Leone.

The press was represented by Mr J. S Oloyede (Nigerian Daily Times); Mr O. Ogunrinka (Daily Service); Messrs I. B. Thomas and L. A. Ojo (Akede Eko); Mr Tony Enahoro (Daily Comet); Messrs Collins U. M. Gardner and A. Y. S. Tinubu (West African Pilot).

Basutoland.

From War to Peace.

(Continued.)

Political, Social & Economic Progress during the War.

Under the stimulus of war and the pressure of changing conditions in the world, many developments of considerable political importance have taken place during the period from 1939 to 1945. These developments have been towards the closer association between the Government and the Native Authorities and the increased participation of the people in the administration of the Territory.

The statement then refers to the promulgation of the Native Administration and Native Courts Proclamations which preceded political developments in the Native Administration. The amendment to the constitution of the Council providing for the formation of the District Councils with powers to elect one representative in the Council and for certain sections of the people also to elect representatives, is prefaced by the history of the origin of the Basutoland Council. These important charges were closely followed by further important reforms of the establishment of the National Treasury in 1945.

Political.

The financial implications of the National Treasury proposals are far reaching. It is estimated that during the initial stages approximately £42,000 of new money will have to be found annually from Reserves of the Territory to meet the recurrent expenditure. In addition to this annual subvention £50,000 will have to be transferred from the accumulated surplus balance to form special reserve and for working capital. Offices and quarters costing some £15,000 will have to be erected and equipped under the building programme before the National Treasury comes into being.

Government.

Proposals for the regrading of the salaries of the European and African Government Staff have been approved.

It is necessary to establish two additional administrative centres in the mountain areas where the population is steadily increasing. At each of these centres there will be an Assistant District Commissioner and a small number of police under a Mosuto N.C.O. Medical and health facilities will be provided and agricultural personnel will also be stationed at these centres.

Social.

Medical and Health Services.

A comprehensive scheme for the development of the Medical and Health Services of the Territory has been drawn up. The scheme envisages the provision of one qualified doctor to 20,000 of the population, one hospital bed to every 900 of the population, and one Health Assistant and one Midwife to every 10,000 of the population. This entails a very substantial increase in staff, more than doubling the existing hospital accommodation, and the establishment of some 60 to 70 health centres throughout the the country.

It is an essential part of the scheme of expansion that there should be established at Maseru a new Hospital (comprising 260 beds) and Training Centre at which the necessary African staff of nurses and health assistants may receive their training.

The scheme includes the bursaries for the training of African Nurses and Health Assistants and the training of 13 Medical officers at the Witwatersrand University.

PROBLEMS OF PLACING AFRICAN EX-SERVICEMEN IN EMPLOYMENT

The Bantu World Johannesburg 9-21-45 South Africa

Discharged African Soldiers present a special problem in re-employment because about 90 per cent. are rural men who want to go home for a few months' rest before working again. A reinstatement and employment wing has been formed to deal with this situation at the Native Military Corps' dispersal depot at Modder Bee, through which all fit Africans in the N.M.C. are discharged.

Africans stay in the depot from three to five days. Before they arrive they are given medical and dental attention in a pre-dispersal depot, any lost or worn-out kit is replaced and they are given lectures to explain the benefits to which they are entitled.

At the dispersal depot their benefits are again explained by the commanding officer, and the Africans are told that they can stay at the depot on full pay until suitable work is found for them.

A representative of The Star who visited the depot heard the European and non-European information officers answering questions and watched the staff of the reinstatement and employment wing finding out what the Africans want to do and making arrangements to get them work.

Africans with pre-enlistment employment to which they wish to return are quickly discharged. Work is found for those who want immediate employment with the assistance of an employment bureau in Johannesburg, and demobilisation committees in the areas where Africans want to work.

AT OTHER CENTRES

Employment bureaux are to be established at Maritzburg, Kimberley, Bloemfontein, East London, Benoni, Vereeniging and Port Elizabeth soon. 9-21-45

Africans who want to rest are told to report to their local demobilisation committees within six months after discharge, and efforts are made to find work for them then.

Complaints have been made that drivers, clerks and teachers are being offered unskilled work, which they accept if they can get nothing else. An officer at the dispersal depot explained that the business community had been circularised, but it was proving difficult to find skilled work.

Many men had acquired knowledge of skilled work in the Army and the Government could only undertake to reinstate them in work equivalent to their pre-war work.

~~European camp padre writes to the local padre in an endeavour to assist in rehabilitating the discharged man.~~

LAST MONTH'S FIGURES

Last month 576 Africans were demobilised, of whom 59 were placed in pre-enlistment employment, work was found for 59 and 12 were given special grants. Nearly all the remainder wanted to go home to rest. It is hoped to discharge 2,000 this month.

Disabled Africans are discharged from a depot at Holfontein, where claims for pensions are submitted on their behalf and the same benefits and facilities are available. There is a settlement for sheltered employment for disabled African ex-volunteers at Elandsdoorn and a scheme for training African builders at Hamanskraal.

In a letter to The Star, a discharged African ex-volunteer, has said that Africans should be given greater representation on demobilisation committees. At Modder Bee the demobilisation committee consists of the officer commanding the dispersal depot, the Native Commissioner and social welfare officer of Benoni, and a demobilisation re-adjustment officer. The local European demobilisation committee has been asked to nominate representatives but has not done so yet.

HOUSING PROBLEM

The letter also states that ex-servicemen are not getting priority for houses in locations. Mr. Venables, manager of the Non-European and Native Affairs Department said that ex-servicemen who previously lived in Johannesburg are getting priority and four had been given houses. 9-21-45

There was a shortage of about 20,000 houses and insufficient labour to meet the need of the city, so that ex-servicemen who previously lived in other parts of the Union are being refused houses and asked to apply in their town of domicile. It is considered that they will have difficulty in keeping employment.

Committees For Care of Bantu ex-Soldiers

The Bantu World Johannesburg - 7-21-45

As the relationship between the Native Military Corps dispersal depot and the discharged soldiers' demobilisation committees is close, suggestions have been made by the Directorate of Demobilisation to these committees about the formation and functions of sub-committees dealing with Bantu ex-volunteers.

In forming such committees it is suggested that persons, if suitable and available, representing the local office of the Native Affairs Department, of the Department of Justice, local authorities, the National War Fund, and representatives of certain non-official bodies, should be included.

The functions to be performed would include securing employment or re-employment of Bantu ex-volunteers; determining whether loss of employment within six months of discharge is, or is not, attributable to the ex-volunteer's own fault; and the establishment of facts and alleged need by claimants submitted for consideration by the dispersal depot committee.

OTHER DUTIES

Other duties would be recording and consideration of claims made direct; making recommendations to the final authority in cases outside its authority with special features requiring consideration; making recommendations for issue of rail warrants to places where employment has been secured; affording assistance or advice within the scope of its authority; and recommending sheltered employment of specialised training.

The statement by the directorate explains the constitution and functions of the dispersal depot committee and its administrative organisation.

PREFER LIGHT WORK

There was a tendency to prefer light work, and few African ex-service men would accept heavy unskilled labour, even at £5 to £7 a month. Many wished to work near their homes, and there were limited facilities for skilled work in the country.

When the men are discharged they keep all their kit, including two of each article of clothing, great coats, boots, two blankets, ground sheet, water bottle, haversack and mess tin. They are given a civilian suit, £2 and transport to wherever they want to go.

Teachers, clerks and other "white-collar" workers are given an additional grant of up to £8 for clothes. If they have to live more than a mile and a half from their place of employment and there is no public transport, they are given bicycles.

In certain circumstances additional grants up to £100 and loans of up to £500 are available at the discretion of the Demobilisation Directorate to assist Africans to adapt themselves to civilian life.

The dispersal depot sends all relevant information about the discharged soldier to his local demobilisation committee, and the non-European camp padre writes to the local padre in an endeavour to assist in rehabilitating the discharged man.

Selassie's Diplomatic Victory Frees Ethiopia From Claws Of British Lion

Chicago Defender — Ch. Ill. 1-20-45

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON—Haile Selassie's head is no longer in the British Lion's mouth.

Scoring a "coup d'etat" that frees Ethiopia from the grip of the wily John Bull, the Emperor's new agreement with Great Britain made public this week, is the most significant document in recent Abyssinian history.

The treaty, signed in Addis Ababa, reveals that Selassie outmaneuvered the British by obtaining the right to appoint American, Russian and other United Nations citizens as advisers.

Under the 1942 treaty, negotiated soon after the Italians had been driven out of Ethiopia, Selassie was permitted to appoint only Britishers to such jobs. As a result English officials dominated Abyssinia and the administration was gradually turning into a British protectorate. P-20-45

U. S. Negroes Wanted

The new treaty also provides that Selassie may appoint Afro-American technicians, doctors, teachers and other specialists to help carry out plans for the country's industrial and social reconstruction without first obtaining permission from Great Britain. Henceforth Ethiopian youth can be sent to American universities instead of to Oxford and Cambridge exclusively, as was formerly the case.

Progressive Abyssinian opinion favors the development of the closest cultural and racial tie-up with Afro-Americans in order to break down the former isolation between the two peoples. 1-20-45

Refuses British Money

Selassie, in an astute political move, refused to accept financial assistance from the British treasury amounting to three million pounds because the British demanded in return too much political control over the money which Abyssinians fear would be used chiefly to pay the salaries of British officials leaving nothing for national needs.

This rejection of British money will no doubt enable Wall Street to step in and provide Selassie with the necessary capital that will have no political strings attached. Such a policy fits in well with Washington's foreign policy of "economic imperialism" as against British protectorates.

The Ethiopians believe that the United States is unlike certain imperial powers with colonial possessions in Africa; that America has no territorial designs upon their country and they would prefer obtaining American aid in modernizing Abyssinia to any European power except Russia.

Great Britain has agreed to return Diredwa, a cantonment where white troops were stationed for the protection of the Jibuti-Addis Ababa railway which they were holding as security for loans made to the Ethiopians.

The British will also give up the idea of annexing the Ogaden Province, a portion of Abyssinia adjoining the British Seawall land. However, they will administer that part of Abyssinia since the British claim that occupation is necessary to provide the Somalian natives with suitable grazing lands during certain seasons.

Still another concession concerns the training of the Ethiopian Army. The British military mission will remain in Abyssinia to complete the training of the new Ethiopian Army and the British government has agreed to pay the sum of 150 pounds for the upkeep of the mission. Under the old treaty the Ethiopian government was saddled with this bill.

"Bill of Rights"

Compared with the 1942 treaty the new agreement is a virtual "Bill of Rights" for Ethiopians and restores much of that nation's sovereignty. The earliest treaty was signed as a condition for the Emperor's return to his throne after the fall of Mussolini's East African Empire.

Under this treaty Selassie was merely a glorified puppet ruler like the Indian maharajas and native Sultans and Emirs in parts of Africa, Malaya and other territories where the system of indirect rule prevails.

Military Concession Ended

The new treaty also invalidates the terms of the Military Convention signed in 1942 under which the British War Office undertook to train and equip a modern Ethiopian army.

The Convention gave the British Military Commander-in-Chief in East Africa the right to garrison British troops in Ogaden. The British Army, moreover, was to use and control the public buildings as barracks and other military establishments free of rent.

All British officers, NCOs and soldiers were exempted from trial before Ethiopian courts in cases where they were accused of having committed offenses against the native inhabitants. In other words the British secured the same sort of extra-territorial rights in Abyssinia as they enjoyed in China until the Japanese expelled all Europeans and Americans from the Asiatic mainland.

Growing dissatisfaction with the '42 treaty and with the Military Convention led Selassie to court the good will of Marshal Stalin and President Roosevelt.

Returning Stolen Property

Pittsburgh Courier

Last week the United States Government formally presented to Haile Selassie at his palace in Addis Ababa the large cache of silverware, royal robes and other articles stolen from the palace by Italian Fascist soldiers during their occupation of the country.

It is reported that the treasures were retrieved by operators of the United States Strategic Services in northern Italy during the round-up of leading Fascists.

The 350 items weighing 800 pounds were flown from Cairo to Addis Ababa in a special plane and officially presented to the Emperor by the American Minister to Ethiopia. 8-11-45

Thus ends another chapter in the shameful assault on the most powerful independent Negro nation remaining in the world.

It has long been customary for conquering nations to loot conquered territoies of their treasures and either distribute them among leading individuals of the conquering country, or place them in museums for the glorification of aggression.

However, Ethiopia deserves something better than the mere return of art treasures.

She deserves not only the right to try the Italian war criminals, headed by King Victor Emmanuel and Marshal Badoglio, but also to be given complete independence from British rule.

At this time when there is much talk of complete justice for victims of military aggression, it is well to remember that Ethiopia is only nominally free—what with her army, her police and her courts controlled by the British—and with no indication that these alien controls will soon be relaxed or eliminated. Pitts. Courier

Complete withdrawal of the British from Ethiopia will be one of the acid tests of the sincerity of England's new Labor Government.

Today's Guest Column

Daily Worker - New York N.Y.

by Alphaeus Hunton

9-13-45

THE 50-year lease announced last week, giving the Sinclair Oil Corp. exclusive control of Ethiopian oil, is a clear example of how "American big business, with the aid of government on the diplomatic level, is reaching out to consolidate its positions throughout the world," as the editorial of last Sunday's Worker pointed out.



The Sinclair deal marks a new chapter in Ethiopia's long struggle to preserve its independence as one of the three remaining states in Africa—about one-fifteenth of the continent—not directly ruled by foreign powers. The coastal territories of Menelik II's greater Ethiopian empire were nibbled off little by little during the last century by England, France and Italy. And in 1935 what remained of Ethiopia was taken over by Mussolini and his fascists.

Since regaining his kingdom in 1942, Emperor Haile Selassie has been making great efforts to develop the country to the status of a modern power. Though handicapped by financial difficulties, he has been pressing forward the modernization of roads, communications, health and education. He no doubt looks to the new oil developments by the Sinclair Corp. to assist in raising the economic and social level of the country. The Liberian government had similar hopes when it permitted the Firestone Co. to establish a rubber monopoly in that West African republic. But it has not been the habit of such monopolies doing business in colonial or near-colonial countries to concern themselves with anything but maximum profits. Our next door neighbor, Mexico, learned that lesson and took steps as soon as she was able to reestablish Mexican ownershsip of Mexican resources.

* * *

IN ALL likelihood the risks entailed in the Sinclair deal have been carefully considered by the Ethiopian Emperor, who learned a good deal about the ways of big power diplomacy from his experience in the League. There was not much room for voluntary choice in the matter. The Emperor was faced with the alternative of making concessions to American business in order to get U.S. diplomatic support, or of being forced to come under the British sphere of influence in East Africa. The latter would have meant the virtual impossibility of Ethiopia's regaining Eritrea, bordering the Red Sea, from Italy in view of Britain's own interests in that area. And further, it might have meant the loss of additional Ethiopian territory in the eastern Harrar and Ogaden provinces now still under British military occupation—the very same area where the rich oil deposits are said to be located. In approving the Sinclair deal, therefore, the Emperor apparently chose what he regarded as the lesser of two evils.

9-13-45

THAT the Emperor was desperately struggling to get free of British domination, the cost of British aid in getting his kingdom back, was made clear by the terms of the revised Anglo-Ethiopian agreement signed last December. The new agreement deprived Britain of its prior position in the supervision of Ethiopian affairs, but it also cancelled out the possibility of Ethiopia getting any further large financial assistance from Britain. The Sinclair deal was the logical next step.

The announcement of the transaction, coming as it does on the eve of the London conference of Foreign Ministers, which will consider the Italian peace treaty and the question of Italy's African colonies, is bound to have an important bearing on the decisions on those matters and on the whole tenor of the conference. Just how much of a real United Nations peace the conference will be able to draft remains to be seen.

le-1945

Editor Says:

Britain Controls 'Third Of Selassie's Empire

Pittsburgh Courier
2-24-45
Pgh. Pa.

By GEORGE PADMORE, London Correspondent

LONDON—(Censored)—"After nine years of struggle for justice for Ethiopia and to induce the government of my country to act with justice, to fulfill its pledges and honor the principles it has professed on our national behalf, I must declare my intention to oppose this policy which removes from Ethiopian jurisdiction a third of the country and robs the people of the status of free Ethiopian citizens, which they ardently desire to retain," declares Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the world famous suffragist leader and editor of the "Ethiopia News," who is now visiting Abyssinia as the guest of Haile Selassie and the Empress of Ethiopia.

Following an interview with the Emperor, Miss Pankhurst, who edits her paper in this country on behalf of Abyssinia's freedom, reveals that under the new treaty signed between the Emperor and Lord De la Warr, head of the British Diplomatic Mission, Selassie has had to surrender certain parts of the Ogaden province of Abyssinia to British military occupation.

Haile Registers Strong Protest To Allied Plans

Atlanta World
Georgia

Bitter On His Exclusion From Parley On Italy

9-26-45

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — (A N P) — Strong opposition against returning to Italy her former colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland came last week from Emperor Haile Selassie.

Expressing bitterness of Ethiopia's exclusion from the five-power conference that is now discussing a peace treaty with Italy in London, he said the seizure of those territories by Italy in the closing years of the last century deprived Ethiopia of access to the sea and enabled Italy to launch unprovoked aggression against Ethiopia in 1935.

1924 VOYAGE

"We considered the loss of these territories so serious that we made an extensive voyage in Europe in 1924 to remedy the situation," he said. 9-26-45

He emphasized Ethiopia's claim to Eritrea and Somaliland and backed Anthony Eden's stand that 'these territories must never be returned to Italy."

"The Ethiopian viewpoint regarding Eritrea and Somaliland has already been formulated in a memorandum addressed to the five power conference, claiming the return of these territories not as a recompense for 10 years' struggle against the axis but as territories incentestably belonging to the Ethiopian empire since before the Christian era and stolen through Italian aggression," he declared.

FDR Hopes for Closer Relations with Ethiopia

Ethiopia

AFRO-AMERICAN
Md.
Balt, Md.

WASHINGTON

In a recent conference with Emperor Haile Selassie, President Roosevelt expressed the hope that with improvements in communications between Ethiopia and the United States, particularly by air, the two countries would come to know each other better. 3-3-45

The Emperor told the President of the many improvements recently made in Abyssinia and enthustically endorsed his hope for closer relations.

Conversed in French

According to a White House statement on the conference released last week, the President received the Emperor and members of his staff aboard a warship in Great Bitter Lake near Cairo, Egypt. 3-3-45

The statement also said that the President, conversing in French, "took advantage of the opportunity to thank the Emperor in person for the site and buildings he and the Empress gave the United States to use as a legation in Addis Ababa."

Earlier that day the President conferred with King Farouk of Egypt and stressed the importance of future trade between Egypt and the United States. He also predicted greater tourist travel to Egypt after the war.

The following day, Roosevelt received King Ibn Saud of Saudi, Arabia, who had traveled more than 800 miles from the Red Sea port of Jidda in order to meet the President. 3-3-45

Members of the King's party interpreted the visit as an unprecedented honor for President Roosevelt as this was the first time in his life that the Arabian monarch had left his country's soil.

Ethiopian and Arabian Rulers Confer With Roosevelt Near Cairo, Egypt

AFRO-American 3-3-45



President Franklin D. Roosevelt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia are shown aboard a U.S. warship following conferences between the President and rulers of Ethiopia, Egypt and Arabia.



Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia and members of his staff, escorted by Admiral Leahy, are shown boarding an American warship near Cairo, Egypt, for a conference with President Roosevelt. King Farouk of Egypt and King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia were also present.

President Roosevelt Greets the Emperor of Ethiopia



President Roosevelt shown chatting with Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia on a U.S. warship following his conference with Churchill and Stalin at Yalta.



Two members of the entourage of King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia who accompanied their monarch to the conference with President Roosevelt. This meeting followed the conference of F. D. R. with Stalin and Churchill at Yalta.

le-1945 Guadaloupe

Eboue Widow Opposes French Colonial Freedom

Chicago, Illinois
Chicago Defender

By VENICE T. SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—Madame Eugenie Tell Eboue is flatly opposed to independence for French colonials. Ill.

The wife of the late Gen. Felix Eboue, newly-elected deputy to the French Constituent Assembly from Guadeloupe, this week told a press conference that she did not favor liberation of Negro colonies from the French.

In Madame Eboue's view, "the colonies have always had their entire liberty."

11-17-45

The outspoken pro-imperialistic stand of the only Negro woman elected to the French Assembly came as she prepared to end her American visit and return to Paris to assume her new duties.

Asked what she will demand of the French Constituent Assembly as a solution to the French colonial problem, Mme. Eboue smilingly answered: "there is no problem."

Attired in black tailored dress and coat, high black turban, Guadeloupe's lone woman deputy who had been elected by a plurality of 14,441 votes, the largest in her district, was met here at Union station by a delegation from the French Embassy and by reporters and photographers from the Negro press.

Opposes Independence

Although the French Embassy had not arranged a press meeting, Mme. Eboue consented to talk to Negro reporters for a brief moment in the station.

Mme. Eboue was apprised of the strong statements for colonial independence of Norman W. Manley, leader of Jamaica's People's National Party, British West Indies, and replied calmly that "I have the impression that I do not agree with that statement."

Pressed for clarification of her stand, she said that she thought Guadeloupe, French Guinea, Martinique and other French colonies had a better chance "through a continued alliance with the French."

"Guadeloupe," said Mme. Eboue, "does not want to be separated from France."

She stated bluntly that she would oppose a Caribbean Union on these grounds.

The French deputy further endeared herself to Negro Americans by answering a question concerning the position of Negroes in America by saying, "I really think it pitiful."

Mme. Eboue disclosed that a total of 33 women had been voted to the new assembly. When asked if she thought her Guadeloupe had been given a raw deal in securing representation to the new assembly as compared with French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa, the French deputy answered with a statement which indicated she did not grasp the point.

When she was again pressed on the point of equal representation for French colonies—when it was pointed out that marked disproportions existed between the colonies in regards to the right to vote—Mme. Eboue graciously protested, said, "but Africa is much larger."

The reporters, deciding that she did not understand what they were driving at, dropped this line of questioning. Apparently, there were quite a few things that the good Mme. did not comprehend.

1-1945

Liberia

Ties Between Liberia And U. S. Stronger

Norfolk Journal & Guide - V2.

2-10-45

By P. BERNARD YOUNG JR.
Editor, Journal and Guide
(With NNPA Commission in West Africa)

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Norfolk, Va.

MONROVIA, Republic of Liberia—Wartime highlights, chronologically, in the history of Liberia, tell a significant story.

These events have signalized the traditional ties between Liberia and the United States, which Vice President Clarence L. Simpson said the other day had changed to a realistic basis.

The key events have been as follows:

Winter, 1942, German consulate in Monrovia close and its officers requested to leave Liberia.

March, 31, 1942, defense agreement signed permitting the United States the right to operate strategic airports and its forces to guard the installations and assist in protecting Liberian soil for the duration.

January, 1943, President Roosevelt visited Liberia enroute from Casablanca Conference, inviting then President Edwin Barclay to visit the U. S., which he later did, accompanied by then President-elect William V. S. Tubman. 2-10-45

June 8, 1943, Liberia and U. S. signed a mutual-aid agreement in New York that gave effect to the decision that Liberia was eligible for Lend-Lease aid.

January, 3, 1944, inauguration of President Tubman, attended Vice Admiral William A. Glassford, special representative of President Roosevelt at Dakar, and American Minister Lester A. Walton.

January 27, 1944, declared war upon Germany and Japan.

April 10, 1944, subscribed to the Declaration of the United Nations, thus making Liberia the 35th to range itself against Axis aggression.

December, 1944, harbor being constructed on Liberia's difficult coastline, making real a dream of the republic since it declared its independence in 1847.

Liberia's strategic position on Africa's west coast made it unavoidable that it should come into the forefront of the war. It is directly on the vital air and sea routes of the world, and it has not sought to escape the consequences of its position in the globe's geography.

Liberia's declaration of war was a repetition of history, for in the first World War it followed America's lead in joining hostilities against Germany, and suffered a bombardment of its capital shortly thereafter.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

Its major contribution in this war has been the making available of landing facilities for the steady flow of aircraft across the South Atlantic from Brazil, without which the defense of the African continent might have failed. 2-10-45

One of the finest military airports has been constructed in Liberia, and up the coast from Monrovia is the Pan-American clipper terminal familiar now to wartime travelers.

Although not a factor in the last war, rubber is a key item in Liberia's importance during this war. Its soil and climate are nearly ideal for growing rubber trees, and thousands of acres cultivated by Liberians and by Firestone Rubber Company are sending one-fifth of the rubber available to the Allies into the arsenals of democracy.

The Firestone plantations were not started until 1926, when the company leased one million acres for 99 years at six cents per acre.

More than 20,000 tons of rubber annually now form a basic part of Liberia's economy, along with palm oil, palm kernels, ground nuts (peanuts), some iron ore and alluvial gold, and possibly diamonds and even oil (surveys are incomplete).

U. S. MONEY USED

American money is now, and has been since early in the war, legal tender in Liberia. Previously it was British West African currency. Some Liberian coins are still in circulation, as well as hinterland currency—a long thin iron stick.

The Lend-Lease agreement made possible the authorization of the port project now in its initial stages.

VISIT OF FDR

The visit of President Roosevelt early in 1943 stirred the interest of Liberians as few things before had done. When the former and present Chief Executives of Liberia visited America in the spring of 1943, it will be recalled, they were entertained at the White House, and taken on a tour of industrial centers. President Barclay addressed a joint session of Congress during that visit.

As Henry S. Villard, chief of the division of African affairs in the Department of State in Washington, says:

"The wartime foundations of cooperation between the United States and Liberia in the defense of this (Western) hemisphere will be, as time goes on, on an even firmer footing." 2-10-45

American Negro troops have played an integral part in the war activities in Liberia and have helped train Liberia's Frontier Force, as well as to build needed roads.

Stettinus First State Sec'y To Visit Liberia

Philadelphia, Tribune
Philadelphia, Pa.

WASHINGTON —(ANP) — The visit of Secretary of State Stettinius to Liberia on February 16 marked the first time that an American secretary of state has visited the African republic. 2-23-45

Stettinius, during his visit, toured several rubber plantations, was received by President Tubman, his entire cabinet, the chief justice and a number of Liberian senators and the speaker of the house of representatives. 3-3-45

After a dinner at the executive mansion, Stettinius was driven to Roberts Field, taking off for Natal shortly after midnight. 3-3-45

In his reception speech, the secretary of state praised Liberia for part in this war "as an ally of the United States," extended greetings from President Roosevelt and said he looked forward to welcoming the Liberian delegation to the United Nations' Conference in San Francisco on April 25.

Liberian Consul General Given New Cabinet Post

AFRO-American 4-21-45
Baltimore, Md.

By RICHARD R. DIER

NEW YORK—Walter F. Walker, Liberian consul-general at New York, will leave this country within two months to accept the cabinet of Secretary of Public Works and Utilities in Monrovia, Liberia.

In an exclusive AFRO interview this week, Mr. Walker revealed that nobody had as yet been chosen to replace him in the Consulate Office. He said he was very happy to be going back to Liberia.

"I think I'll love the job. There's a tremendous amount of work to be done there and it will take time to pick up speed and gain the proper momentum.

A New Cabinet Post

The Department of Public Works and Utilities was created by the Liberian President by an executive proclamation dated February 1, and Mrs. Walker was commissioned as secretary on February 12 in the Executive Mansion. 4-21-45

He said his work will include all public construction, water power, transportation, roads, and control of government utilities. It will also serve to co-ordinate the functions of the various U.S. missions now operating in Liberia.

A party to all negotiations incident to the establishment of the several foreign missions in Liberia, Mr. Walker, it is said, has a background well able to cope with the new appointment.

Health Mission

The foreign agencies now in Liberia are Harbor Construction, Special Mission of the U.S. FEA, the U.S. Public Health and Sanitation, and the Agricultural Specialist Missions.

A former Secretary of Public Instruction and Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Walker, who has been consul general since 1939 and consul for six years prior to that, explained that his program is all-inclusive.

Centennial in 1947

"There is no single program that can be singled out, except the need for speed in connection with the centennial celebration of the Liberian Republic to be celebrated in 1947," he declared.

"There has been quite a lot of progress in Liberia since the war. We supply so much rubber to the Allied nations. The figure has reached about 20,000 tons of plantation rubber annually. We give rubber and take gasoline in return.

"Although we grow rubber, we can't even get tires," he declared and explained that before the war, Liberia produced only 2,000 tons annually. Balt., Md.

Responsible to President

Mr. Walker stated that the term of office of his new cabinet post "is at the will and tenure of the President." 4-21-45

Once a regular reader of the AFRO, Mr. Walker stated that he has been so busy of late that he hasn't had the opportunity to do much reading of newspapers. "I haven't had the AFRO for several months and I miss it. In Liberia, we have quite a few subscribers to your paper, and I guess I'll have to rely on getting my news second-hand from them," he concluded. 4-21-45



WALTER W. WALKER

Hanson Ousted By Liberia

Informer — Houston, Texas

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Exclusive

SAN FRANCISCO—The recall of Carl P. Hanson, chairman of a foreign economic administration commission sent to Liberia late last year, has been demanded of the United States by the Liberian government. A substitute chairman of the commission has already been sent to Liberia to take over Hanson's functions, and the ousted commission chief is either enroute home or soon to leave.

5-5-45

This development in American Liberian relations was exclusively learned by this representative during recent trips to New York and Washington, but was not confirmed adequately to warrant publication until persons close to the American and Liberian governments were talked to here this week.

What effect the forced recall of Hanson will have on the presently cordial relationships of the two governments was not vouchsafed by my sources. but it can be stated on the highest authority that the action has caused considerable concern in official Washington circles.

My sources of information supplied this composite background to the recall demand: Mr. Hanson dug into "Closed chapters" of Liberian affairs, he presisted in implying lack of faith in Liberian officials by making tours in which he asked residents of the interior, particularly, if they were forced to work on public projects such as road building; if their land was unfairly taken from them; and if they were mistreated by military or civil authorities. 5-5-45

Moreover, it was stated, Hanson seemed to be ready to make Liberia a political and economic "laboratory" for his own ideas with too little regard for their usefullness and timeliness in Liberia. Hanson is white, only one Negro was a member of his staff.

Ih was known that he sent long and frequent reports to Washington. Some of his critics declared that he "wrote too fast" meaning that he almost contradicted himself before he completed a report.

Our government is spending millions of lend-lease dollars in Liberia on health, roadbuilding, economic, military, and harbor project; and recently signed a treaty with Liberia guaranteeing its security in exchange for rights to vital startegic bases for defense of this hemisphere and the United States specifically.

See Monrovia As Key Postwar Airport; Route Plans Drawn

Atlanta World — Atlanta, Ga

1-26-45

WASHINGTON — (ANP)— Monrovia, capital of Liberia, will become a transcontinential airport of importance if the Civil Aeronautics board grants the request of the New York Port of Authority committee which made a personal appearance before the board last week for permit to operate a postwar air-line between New York City and Johannesburg, South Africa, with stop-over landing fields at Horta, the Azores, Monrovia, Liberia, and Leopoldville, Belgian Congo.

Plans have been drawn for this proposed route, which expects to operate for passengers, mail and freight, direct betwen the New York-New Jersey area and Western and South Africa.

1-26-45

PASSENGER INCREASE

By their calculations as presented to the CAB, the line will carry three times as many passengers as the steam liners carried in prewar days, and the fast direct transportation provided will induce more passengers than ever handled before. The speed will also bring mail contracts and expedite air horne freight between the two continents.

Monrovia will be the port for all territroy witnin a given redius of that city, providing a central point of freight, mail and passengers, enhancing the city's importance as an international port. It would also be a transfer point for other air lines to North Africa, Central Africa and East Africa, as far across the continent as Abyssinia. 1-26-45

The possibilities offered are immeasurable with air travel and transportation expecting to dominate the field in the post war era. It would mean the erection of a huge modern air field with all of the necessary adjuncts bringing new importance to the Negro republic. New business opportunities would be opened and the greater contact with other parts of the world would be offered Liberia.

Liberia Capital To Be Port For All Territory Within Large Radius

Americans Hard At Work With Mission To Liberia

Atlanta World — Ga.

1-17-45

1-17-45

MONROVIA. — (ANP)—If everything goes well. the annual food production in Liberia will rise. Of this the members of the Foreign Economics administration mission are assured. There are a lot of hurdles to be overcome but the possibilities are here. The soil, rainfall, climate, all are conducive to production once knowledge is spread the right places.

Frank E. Pinder, late of the department of agriculture in Washington, D. C., had just returned from one of the several trips which he has made into the interior during his short stay here when he was interviewed.

"Food production is the big problem here," Pinder said. "We are working with the small farmers in the interest of overcoming this serious problem. With technical guidance and advice, the following crops can be grown here in abundance: rice, cassava, palm kernels, bananas, vegetables, plantains, cocoa, coffe, citrus, picssava, etc. Fish is plentiful in local waters but is not caught in sufficient quanitites to supply domestic needs.

1-17-45

"Charles E. Trout, who is head of agriculture at Kakata ,the vocational school supported by the American Colonization Society and the Phelps Stokes Funds, among others, has gotten off to a fine start. We are coordinating our efforts in the development of a sound agricultural program," he continued.

The United States Public Health mission has arrived and is at work. Lt. Col. John West, Major Granville Woodson, Capt. Charles West, Warrant Officer Jordan and John P. Davis, Jr., are among those who are here. There is a big job to do and the various members of the missions are going about their daily chores with much enthusiasm.

1-17-45

Production Of Food Is Termed Biggest Problem

Hilyard Robinson Home From Liberia

Chicago Defender

Chicago Ill. 1-27-45

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — Hilyard R. Robinson, noted architect, returned here last week from Monrovia where he was named technical consultant to the republic of Liberia.

1-27-45

Robinson and his engineering assistant, James Braxton, had spent four and a half months abroad making comprehensive land surveys in connection with future development plans.

"Liberia has entered upon a comprehensive program of economic planning," Robinson said, "significant items of which cover public health, agriculture and physical development programs."

Liberia Invites U.S. Immigration

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta Ga.

12-16-45

MONROVIA, — (ANP) — There has been no change of sentiment here regarding the invitation extended to American Negroes to make this country their home shortly after President Truman visited the United States.

Speaking on the subject at his inauguration on Jan. 3, 1944, he said: "During my recent visit to the United States I was very much impressed with the high education, thrift, initiative and wealth of a very large portion of our racial group in that country. It is from this class we should select the type of immigration we desire and to whom we must extend the cry of Macedonia."

That invitation to Negroes of America still stands, members of the President's cabinet said recently.

First Woman Officer In Liberian Cabinet

New York Times Eagle

MONROVIA, Liberia — For the first time in Liberian history a woman is officiating as a cabinet officer. She is Mrs. Ellen Mills-Scarbrough, supervising teacher, who is serving as Secretary of Public Instruction during the absence of Dr. J. W. Pearson, who is representing Liberia at the International Conference on Education in London. N. G., N. Y.

Mrs. Scarbrough is well-known in the United States, having graduated from Howard University and taught for several years in the public schools of Trenton, New Jersey. She is the wife of Dr. Clarence F. Scarbrough, former practicing dentist in Trenton, now residing in Liberia. 12-15-45

"Superior Attitude" Criticized

"Embarrassing Reports" Sent By White Economist

By P. Bernard Young Jr.
Editor, Journal and Guide

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. —(Exclusive)—The recall of Carl P. Hanson, chairman of a foreign economic administration commission sent to Liberia late last year, has been demanded of the United States by the Liberian Government.

A substitute chairman of the commission has already been sent to Liberia to take over Hanson's functions, and the ousted commission chief is either enroute home or soon to leave.

This development in American-Liberian relations was exclusively learned by this **Journal and Guide** representative during recent trips to New York and Washington, but was not confirmed adequately to warrant publication until persons close to both the American and Liberian Governments were talked to here this week.

EFFECT UNKNOWN

What effect the forced recall of Hanson will have on the presently cordial relationship of the two governments was not vouchsafed by my sources, but it can be stated on the highest authority that the action has caused considerable concern in official Washington circles.

It was apparent to this correspondent when he was in Liberia last December that Liberian officialdom, and some Americans there, were none too happy with the attitudes and activities of the economic expert, sent there with his staff to study conditions and assist the Negro Republic's program of economic development.

CHARGE SUPERIOR ATTITUDE

As a matter of fact, members of his own staff sharply critized him to me. They seemed most disturbed by what they regarded as a dictatorial attitude, a disinclination to accept ideas foreign to his own, and a somewhat superior attitude to the people and governing group of the African Republic.

My sources of information supplied this composite background to the recall demand: Mr. Hanson dug into "closed chapters" of Liberian affairs, he persisted in implying lack of faith in Liberian officials by making tours in which he asked residents of the interior particularly if they were forced to work on public projects such as road building, if their lands was unfairly taken from them, and if they were mistreated by military or civil authorities.

HANSON IS WHITE

Moreover, it was stated, Hanson seemed to be ready to make Liberia a political and economic "laboratory" for his own ideas, with too little regard for their usefulness and timeliness in Liberia. Hanson is white, only one Negro was a member of his staff.

It is known that he sent long and frequent reports to Washington. Some of his critics declared that he "wrote too fast," meaning that he almost contradicted himself before he completed a report.

FINAL STRAW

One major report, which he referred in this case to the Liberian Government before forwarding it to Washington, is regarded as the straw that broke the camel's back of Liberian patience. The Monrovia Government regarded it as unfair, harmful, and detrimental. Forthwith his recall was requested of Washington.

Our government is spending millions of Lend-Lease dollars in Liberia on health, road building, economic, military, and harbor projects. It recently signed a treaty guaranteeing its security in exchange for rights to vital strategic bases for defense of this hemisphere and the United States specifically.

KING CITY, CALIF., HERALD
MAY 31, 1945

NEWS IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION
By W. W. Reid

APPOINTED TO LIBERIA

Two Negro bishops, both of whom in their respective churches had made names for themselves as leaders of their people, have been appointed for missionary oversight in the Republic of Liberia. Bishop Willis J. King, well-known as a sociologist and as president of Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Ga., is already in Monrovia ashead of the Methodist Church's work; while the Rev. Bravid W. Harris, former archdeacon in Norfolk, Va., and more recently secretary of Negro work under the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church, has been elected missionary bishop of Liberia for his church. Both of these churches have been serving Liberia for more than 100 years, and it was the first mission field of each church.

Liberia Celebrates 9-1-45 Anniversary

Commander-in-Chief Reviews Troops, President Tubman Holds Three Receptions

By JACOB BROWNE

MONROVIA, Liberia (ANP)—The weather was doubtful; sometimes sun, sometimes rain; a few minutes of drizzle, a few minutes of cloudiness; such was the day when Fort Norris announced by a cannon salute the dawn of Liberia's 98th anniversary of independence as a free, sovereign, and independent nation. Another salute from Fort Norris at 7:30 was for the striking of the colors on all public buildings and private residences.

21-Gun Salute

At 8:30 a. m., a salute of 21 guns announced the arrival of the president and commander-in-chief to review the troops under the command of Col. Randolph M. Ellis, D. S. O. President Tubman was dressed in his military uniform with the five stars of his rank; as decoration, he wore a series of miniature medals crowned with the Grand Star of African Redemption. Loudspeakers were installed for the first time, and this lent dignity to the occasion.

After the review, Miss Maude Parker read the declaration of independence, an immortal document unsurpassed in the annals of Liberian literature.

Richard S. S. Bright, lately consul general to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, was the orator for the day.

First Official Reception

Last year, President Tubman was in mourning for his late wife and could not hold the usual reception; this was therefore his first official reception as head of the State. Members of the government, diplomatic corps, prominent Liberians, heads of foreign missions, and high personages including the representatives of the United States Army and Navy, and Royal Air force, arrived at 12:30 for the official reception.

In his toast, U. S. Minister Lester Walton said:

"Forward thinking Liberians are acutely conscious of the additional, weighty responsibilities imposed upon them. Their desire for economic, social and political development is currently reflected in the construction of port and port works at Monrovia, the extension into the hinterland of Liberia's main artry of transport, the activities of foreign economic, health and agricultural missions, the countrywide vote which was taken in May to give the aboriginal population a larger participation in government, and drastic steps recently initiated by the executive branch of government to improve hinterland administration, a recognized needy reform which transcends local concern and expectancy.

"Figuratively speaking, Liberia represents a musical note in the United Nations Symphony for Peace.' The size of the note, in my opinion, is not so important as the obvious fact that Liberia is one of 50 nations to join in the rendition of a harmonious outpouring of hearts and minds for world collaboration, world readjustment and world security."

Mainland Its Autonomy

In response, President Tubman said: "I have read and have heard it insinuated by friends and critics that in a century of its national life Liberia will have nothing to its credit except that it has maintained its autonomy. While this in itself would be a great and glorious achievement, we are persuaded that there is a lot more that can be justly claimed by Liberia and Liberians.

"The construction of motor roads, begun almost 20 years ago by the Liberian government, which has opened the country to some extent to a modern transportation system, the installation of a radio service in our principal sea coast towns and in the interior, operated by Liberians; the construction of some of the best lighthouses on the west coast of Africa; the training and education of the people of the country in the various avocations and walks of life essential to life here; the planting and cultivation of rubber plantations by Liberian farmers; the production of rice, our principal article of food, by our own citizens; the exploitation of gold by means of alluvial mining by Liberians; the introduction of light and power into the country by the Liberian government and operated by Liberians; our homes built principally by Liberian architects and builders and in Liberian style; our lawyers and clergymen trained on the spot and by Liberians; men trained to the extent that they have by statescraft and prayer retained our autonomy; our schools which have produced men who have met and measured forensic force in most of the principal councils of the world; with the limited resources that have been available as well as the unsettled and uncertain conditions that had been obtaining in international relations, we feel a certain degree of safety in asserting that relatively and comparatively the achievements of this country and its people in the circumstances are comparably as great and as well as could be reasonably attained by any other human group."

President Truman Sends Felicitations

While the reception was in full swing, a message was received from President Truman of the United States. It read:

"I am happy on this national anniversary of Liberia to send to you and to the people of Liberia the congratulations and best wishes of the people of the United States."

President Tubman promptly replied: "I accept for myself and on behalf of the government and people of Liberia your message of congratulations and reciprocate best wishes to you and government and people of the United States of America."

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During the reception, President Tubman decorated his secretary, J. Emery Knight, with the distinction of Knight Commander of the Star of Africa "for efficient and loyal services and devotion to duty." Collector C. G. Bryant with the distinction of Knight Official of the Star of Africa, "for untiring efforts in raising the revenues of the Customs Service," and Aaron S. Brown, as officer of the Star of Africa "for his contribution to Liberian art."

Thus ended the celebration marking the establishment of the independence of Liberia July 26, 1847 under the Hon. Joseph J. Roberts, a native Virginian and first Negro President of Liberia. He succeeded the last white president of Liberia, who died in 1841.

Impressive Ceremony Held In Monrovia

Journal & Guide 9-1-45

NORFOLK, VA.

Friendship To America, National Reconstruction Stressed At Observance

MONROVIA, Liberia —(ANP)— The Republic of Liberia celebrated the 98th anniversary of its independence as a free and sovereign nation with inspiring official ceremonies here in its capital on July 26. Heading the roster of high government dignitaries, diplomats and many visitors who came to the capital to participate in the event was President W. V. S. Tubman.

Despite unfavorable weather conditions with intermittent rain and an overcast sky, the occasion attracted large crowds. The dawn of the day for the gala celebration was heralded by a cannon salute at Fort Norris at 7:30 a. m. which signaled the time for striking the colors on all public buildings and private residences throughout the Republic.

One hour later a salute of 21 guns announced the arrival of the President and Commander-in-Chief to review the troops under the command of Col. Randolph M. Ellis, D. S. C. President Tubman was dressed in his military uniform with the five stars of his rank. In addition, he wore a series of miniature medals crowned with the Grand Star of African Redemption.



EDWIN BARCLAY
Called Liberia's Greatest President . . .

A Toast By U. S. Minister Lester Walton

Journal - Guide

In his toast, U. S. Minister Lester Walton said: "Forward-thinking Liberians are acutely conscious of the additional, weighty responsibilities imposed upon them. Their desire for economic, social and political development is currently reflected in the construction of port and port works at Monrovia, the extension into the hinterland of Liberia's main artery of transport, the activities of foreign economic, health and agricultural missions, the country-wide vote which was taken in May to give the aboriginal population a larger participation in government."

Norfolk, Va.

In response, President Tubman said: "I have read and have heard it insinuated by friends and critics that in a century of its national life Liberia will have nothing to its credit except that it has maintained its autonomy. While this in itself would be a great and glorious achievement, we are persuaded that there is a lot more that can be justly claimed by Liberia and Liberians.

9-1-45

These achievements include, he said, "The construction of motor roads, begun almost 20 years ago by the Liberian government, which has opened the country to some extent to a modern transportation system, the installation of a radio service in our principal sea coast towns and in the interior, operated by Liberians; the construction of some of the best lighthouses on the west coast of Africa; the training and education of the people of the country in the various avocations and walks of life essential to life here.

"Also, the planting and cultivation of rubber plantations by Liberian farmers; the production of rice, our principal article of food, by our own citizens; the exploitation of gold by means of alluvial mining by Liberians; the introduction of light and power into the country by the Liberian government and operated by Liberians; our homes built principally by Liberian architects and builders and in Liberian style; our lawyers and clergymen trained on the spot and by Liberians; men trained to the extent that they have by statescraft and prayer retained our autonomy."



W. V. S. TUBMAN
Present Leader . . .

Covers Area Of 40,000 Square Miles

Journal - Guide, Norfolk, Va

Liberia covers an area of 40,000 square miles with a coastline of 350 miles. The population is estimated at 2,000,000 of whom conservative circles list only 50,000 as civilized. It is estimated that 20,000 American Negroes are in Liberia.

9-1-45

Liberian officials from the President down, on the average are highly educated. The majority of them were educated in the universities in Europe, particularly in London and Paris. With closer cooperation between Liberians and Americans more Liberians in the future will select American universities and colleges for their high education.

Liberia is rich in natural resources. Most of the country is covered with tropical forests of valuable timber. In 1937, for example, it was estimated that there were 10,000,000 rubber trees in the country.

9-1-45

Other resources and exports include oil, nuts, coffee, rubber, ivory, ginger and valuable timber. There is considerable mining of gold in parts of the country.

New Liberian Consul Greeted By Predecessor

New York Age, N.Y.



6-9-45

Frederic Price, (left), newly-appointed Liberian Consul General in New York, is greeted by his predecessor, Walter F. Walker, now Liberia's Secretary of Public Works, upon Price's arrival in the United States by Pan American Transatlantic Clipper.

6-9-45

Celebration Off To A Flying Start

Journal-Guide

With the arrival of the President the review began and the first phase of the day's celebration was off to a flying start. Loudspeakers had been installed for the first time, and this added dignity to the occasion.

Norfolk, Va.

Miss Maude Parker read the declaration of independence, an immortal document unsurpassed in the annals of Liberian literature. 9-1-45

Richard S. S. Bright, lately consul general to Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the orator for the day, took as his subject "Liberia at the Crossroads." "Let not the truth be lost upon us that today Liberia is at the crossroads and must make a choice which may well prove the most momentous in her history. Nothing seems possible to stand in the way of the avalanche of modern advancement that has set in upon us.

"Liberia is on a move, on a move towards an era of internal development of which we have perhaps but dreamt. What will we do then? Will we so order and adjust our life as a nation as to receive the maximum amount of benefit deriveable? Or, will we stand and complacently watch the transformations that are taking place in our land until they grow so vast we cannot comprehend them, permitting them to bestride our land like a Colossus, leaving us mere serfs, relegated to the background and forced to receive but the crumbs that fall from the Master's table? Let us act now and quickly."

9-1-45

Members of the government, diplomatic corps, prominent Liberians, heads of foreign missions, and high personages including representatives of the United States Army and Navy, and Royal Air force, arrived at 12:30 for the official reception.

Natives Loyal... Because Of Fear

Laws And Traditions Of African Tribes Are Respected By Liberia

Pittsburgh Courier — Pgh., Pa.

EDITOR'S NOTE—The Rev. C. C. Adams returned recently from Liberia and the African West Coast, where he was sent as a representative of the Baptist Church. In this and following articles, the Rev. Mr. Adams will tell the effect of the war on Africa and the Liberian Republic.

By The Rev. C. C. Adams, Secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, National Baptist Convention

Continuing what has gone before in "Africa as I Found It Today," we now begin the discussion of a subject that is an institution of Africa, hoary with the centuries of antiquity—her system of tribes. The tribal life of Africa is not something that can be bound in terms of history. In fact, it seems as old as the instinct that first moved people in the most primitive way—to group themselves together for motives of common welfare and security.

It bears the earmarks of being the first effort at communal life, barring only the immediate family life of husband and wife and children.

Throughout Africa there are hundreds of different tribes, and in some respects there is a thread of similarity in all of them that identifies all as parts of a grand whole, but there is enough dissimilarity in each to mark a telling distinction. In Liberia, for example, among the many tribes I met with and visited were the following: "The Kries," "Bassas," "Kesses," "Pessies," "Vias," "Keiths," "Mindos" and "Madingoes." All of them differ widely in habits of life.

PRACTICE SLAVERY

Until recent years, when the Liberian Government put an end to it, among the tribes there was a constant slave traffic going on between the strong tribes, with the weak tribes the victims. It is a matter of record that when the European nations and our own country indulged in the African slave trade, it was these strong war-like tribes, all over Africa, who captured members of the weaker tribes, and sold or traded them to the white slave masters.

It is also a fact that may make many American Negroes blush to learn that almost without exception, the American and West Indian Negroes are the descendants of these same weaker tribes, as seldom members of the stronger tribes have known slavery in America, Europe or elsewhere. This is just a fact stated for what it is worth.

7-14-45

THEIR TRADITIONS

Traditions are handed down faithfully from generation to generation, and regarded as sacred, and held to with awe and veneration. At a certain age the boys join "The Devil and Bush Society," and over a period of years, for six weeks each year, they are taken to a secluded place where no outsider is allowed to approach on the pain of death, and these boys are taught and drilled into the sacred traditions of the "father."

These boys pledge at the pain of death, not only to obey their traditions, but never to divulge certain secrets. They are taught if they violate these sacred customs, forsake their religion, or move from a mud house into a westernly built modern house, the spirits of their ancestors will curse them.

GIRLS TRAINED

In the "Gregory Bush," the woman's auxiliary to the "Devil Bush," the girls are trained six weeks each year in the traditions and arts of being a wife and mother by the head woman, known as the Zoar.

7-14-45

These traditions make a most difficult hurdle for Christianity and western civilization, not because these natives are happy and love their past, but their superstititions make them fear to break with the tradition. Theirs is a loyalty of fear, not of love and devotion.

THEIR GOVERNMENT

Their laws are well established and rooted in the customs many centuries old, and are unchanged from one generation to another and they must be respected and obeyed, as all major violations call for the death penalty.

The chiefs are the principal authorities, and they have what is known as the town chiefs, the clan chiefs and the paramount chiefs, each with special jurisdictions.

The Republic of Liberia is a constitutional government whose laws are based on English and United States jurisprudence, but the Liberian Government respects and supervises the native laws and courts of the chiefs, according to their customs of justice and methods of arriving at the same. This is both humane and wise on the part of the Liberian Government, whose ultimate purpose is to gradually educate and lead them to accept more enlightened and civilized methods and processes.

Republic Founded In 1822

Journal-Guide

Founded in 1822 following the purchase of land in the confines of Liberia on Dec. 15, 1821, colonists began to arrive soon thereafter under the sponsorship of the American Colonization Society which was organized Jan. 1, 1817 with Bushrod Washington as society president.

Norfolk, Va.

While President Roberts was an able executive, perhaps the most capable President of Liberia was President Edwin J. Barclay, native of Barbadoes, West Indies who came to the country with his parents in the middle of the 19th century. A full-blooded Negro, Mr. Barclay was elected President for four years in May, 1931 and re-elected for eight years May 7, 1935. Liberian presidents are now elected for a term of eight years.

The Liberian Legislature consists of two houses—the Senate of eight members, and the House of Representatives with 15 members. Senators are elected for a term of six years, while representatives are elected for four years. The franchise was recently given to a larger number of natives who are encouraged to participate in the efforts to improve local and national government.

9-1-45

A majority of the big powers soon recognized the independence of Liberia so that by 1849 all excepting the United States had taken favorable action on the new republic. Because America did not care to receive a Negro diplomat, she postponed recognition of Liberia until 1862

The International Status Of Nigeria

West African Pilot

ONE-THIRD of the British colonial empire, from the point of view of population; one of the largest chunks of territory of the British imperial system — yet a nonentity in the realm of international relations. That is the fate of Nigeria, the land where tin, cocoa, groundnuts, rubber, palm kernels, tantalite, columbite, etc. flourish, pari passu with over 20 million souls.

4-11-45 Leader

Readers of newspapers cannot but be struck forcibly by the remarks of the British government, when it refused to sanction a Nigerian delegation to San Francisco to attend as "observers." Britain was definite in stating that the agenda at the San Francisco Conference "are matters of international relations, defence and world security for which the responsibility, so far as Nigeria and other parts of the colonial empire are concerned, rests with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom."

In the same issue of this newspaper — which published the text of this rebuff to Nigeria by Great Britain — appeared the news of the personnel of the Liberian delegation to the San Francisco Conference. This showed how the Liberian republic, with its century of political freedom, has developed to become a concrescent factor in international relations. Whilst the Republic of Liberia finds an honoured place at San Francisco, in spite of its apparent economic and other disabilities, Nigeria with all its wealth and man-power must be relegated to the background, because it is not a free and independent state.

We do not know whether our folks ever stop to think of the difference between Nigeria, being an appanage of a protecting state, and being a state? We do not know whether our folks realise the blessings that are inherent in the protectorate status of this young and ambitious country? If ever there was a time, when we should think of making history and command the attention of the world, it is now. The rebuff from the Mother Country is a challenge to Nigeria. Let us take up our beds and walk. Yet the tragedy of it is that some Nigerians are suffering from political rheumatism.

NIGERIANS SUBMIT AMENDMENTS

Public Opinion

Delegation Discuss Reforms With Colonel Stanley

By George Padmore

(Our London Correspondent)

The long awaited memorandum containing recommendations to the recently promulgated Constitution for Nigeria has reached the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The Constitution in question was prepared by high-ranking officials at the Colonial Office and presented to the Legislative Council of Nigeria last February. The African members of the Council had no opportunity to discuss the constitution and decided to vote along with the European official and unofficial members for its acceptance. But when the document was made public, progressive Africans throughout the country denounced the Constitution and held mass meetings at which resolutions repudiating the African members of the Council were adopted.

Taking up the challenge thrown down by the Governor and his African and European supporters, the leaders of the National Council of Nigeria and the Camaroons — (the former German colony now incorporated into Nigeria) summoned a special Constituent Assembly for the purpose of drafting amendments to the proposed Constitution.

6-7-45

American Educated Africans Lead Freedom Fight

Heading the struggle for political democracy and economic and social emancipation are a number of American educated young African nationalists, spearheaded by Nnamdi Azikiwe. Mr. Azikiwe was educated at Howard and Pittsburg Universities and later became a lecturer in Political Science at Lincoln University, before he returned to West Africa. He occupies a position in African public life similar to that enjoyed by Jawaharlal Nehru in Indian nationalism. Closely associated with Azikiwe are several young men who also studied at American institutions of higher learning.

Regarding these African radicals, colonial officials consider that natives educated in American universities bring back to their colonies "revolutionary ideas based upon Jeffersonian democracy", which find widespread support among the youths. Consequently, they are considered even more dangerous than those African intellectuals educated at British Universities, such as Oxford and Cambridge, where thinking is more constructive.

Since the setting up of a special Colonial Education department within the Colonial Office in London, West African governments are being "encouraged" to send African students to British universities rather than to America. There is no compulsion except in those cases where students enjoy Colonial government scholarships or scholarships offered by the British Council.

Main Points of Amendments

The memorandum was submitted to Governor Arthur Richards, for transmission to Colonial Oliver Stanley, and it represents the concensus of opinion of 98 nation-wide organisations aaffliated to the National Council, which is a sort of mass movement like that of the Congress Party in India.

6-7-45

Among the organisations supporting the agitation are political parties, trades unions, literary societies, social clubs, tribal unions, and number of progressive and uplift movements.

1) The Memorandumr equests recognition of the Protectorate status of Nigeria by suggesting (a) that the House of Assembly should legislate regionally; (b), that the Legislative Council should noly legislate for non-Colony areas in matters affecting defence, currency and foreign affairs and (c), the Executive should be styled "High Commissioner of the Protectorate or Nigeria."

GOVERNOR'S ACTION CRITICISED:

Governor Richards, who was considered as unpopular in Jamaica at the time when the people of that island were agitating for a new constitution was transferred to Nigeria where he is now criticised for the unilateral manner in which he has promulgated the Nigerian constructive suggestions which have received popular approval. It demands the following:—

1) Abolition of the principle of nomination,
2) Introduction of universal adult franchise,
3) Abrogation of political privilage which some civil servants and "vested interests" enjoy by being given seats in the legislature with voting rights instead of being used in an advisory capacity, if necessary,
4) Discarding the prevalent

6-7-45

practice of arrogating political rights on basis of discrimination on account of sex and property-com-income qualification.

PROMOTING SELF-GOVERNMENT:

In the opinion of the memorandum, the only ways and means to accelerate internal self-government in Nigeria are:
1) By reducing the political power of Administrative Officers, who should act as advisers and not overlords.
2) By giving Native authorties more responsibility, i.e. by making them "official members" in legislations,
3) By creating a legislative council wherein the indigenous inhabitants would have "an effective numerical majority",
4) By securing for Africans greater participation in the management of their own affairs.

6-7-45

The memorandum is practical and progressive in its outlook. It is expected that a delegation representing all sections of Nigerian public opinion will proceed to London to discuss or to present their demands to the Colonial Office, where Governor Richards has already arrived for consultations with Colonel Stanley and other top-ranking officials at Downing Street.

Editor Says:

Britain Controls Third Of Selassie's Empire

Pittsburgh, Pa
Pittsburgh Courier
2-24-45

By GEORGE PADMORE, London Correspondent

LONDON—(Censored)—"After nine years of struggle for justice for Ethiopia and to induce the government of my country to act with justice, to fulfill its pledges and honor the principles it has professed on our national behalf, I must declare my intention to oppose this policy which removes from Ethiopian jurisdiction a third of the country and robs the people of the status of free Ethiopian citizens, which they ardently desire to retain," declares Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, the world famous suffragist leader and editor of the "Ethiopia News," who is now visiting Abyssinia as the guest of Haile Selassie and the Empress of Ethiopia.

Following an interview with the Emperor, Miss Pankhurst, who edits her paper in this country on behalf of Abyssinia's freedom, reveals that under the new treaty signed between the Emperor and Lord De la Warr, head of the British Diplomatic Mission, Selassie has had to surrender certain parts of the Ogaden province of Abyssinia to British military occupation.

Barbados Unseats 2 White Legislators

Baltimore, Md.
1-13-45

BRIDGETOWN, BARBADOES, B.W.I. (ANP)—Two white legislators, C. H. Kinch and W. W. Reece, who has served twenty-five and fourteen years, respectively, were among the candidates defeated recently in a general election shakeup.

AFRO-AMERICAN

Citizens who are demanding social legislation favorable to the masses in the future program of the colony are said to be responsible for their defeat. Nine new members were elected.

Abyssinian Attache Sent to Country of His Father

Baltimore, Md.
AFRO-AMERICAN

By CHATWOOD HALL

MOSCOW. (Special)—The son of a Russian who immigrated to Abyssinia fifty years ago, Micha Babitcheff arrived here this week to assume duties as first secretary at the Abyssinian legation.

Chief of Emperior Haile Selassie's small dispatch and scouting aviation service, Bahitcheff, who is 36 and 6 feet 3, went in exile abroad following Mussolini's occupaton of his country.

In France when Hitler overrun that country, he escaped and joined the emperior's exile entourage n London. After the Italians were driven out, he joined in the rehabilitation of his country until he received the new appointment.

1-6-45

Exceedingly interested in the great Russian poet, Pushkin, he says that he expects to like Russia and the Russian people. The new secretary, who speaks English and French fluently, replaces Takle Roro, who was recalled several months ago.

Regarding the educators and specialists now aiding in his country's recontruction, he says that aside from climatic adjustments they are doing exceedingly well.

His father, who married a beautiful Abyssinian woman by whom he had two sonsa nd three daughters, is now living in retirement in his adopted country. One daughter married the famous Ethiopian patriot and commander, Ras Masiba.

1-6-45



Political

British Adopt 'Black Cabinet' Setup, Five Colonials Now Hold London Jobs

Chicago Defender
3-24-45

Chicago, Ill.

By HENRY LEE MOON
(Defender Staff Correspondent)

LONDON. — Confronted with a vastly expanded colored population, Britain has for the first time resorted to the employment of racial relations advisers working along lines similar to those of such employees in the Federal service in Washington.

3-24-45

In Britain, however, these officials are not designated as racial relations advisers but their functions and responsibilities approximate those of the New Deal appointees in Washington.

There are now four such British advisers, three in the colonial office and one in the Ministry of Labor. Like their counterparts in Washington, they are well trained men, intelligent, helpful and informed in their respective fields. Also, like the so-called Black Cabinet of Washington they are subject to certain criticism by other colonials who sometimes accuse the advisers of representing the government's interests rather than the welfare of the colonials. While these advisers cannot publicly criticize the government, they naturally resent being looked upon as apologists.

3-24-45

Sierre Leone Man First

Within their respective organizations, they do not appear to rank as high as the Negro advisers in Washington. None is immediately responsible to the head of his department, the Secretary of State for Colonies or the Minister of Labor. They are probably not as well paid nor as influential as the Washington group, having no black voting constituencies to back them up.

Ivor Cummings of Sierra Leone, West Africa, was the first colonial appointed to such a position. He was named assistant welfare officer for colonials in 1942 and attached to the Colonial Officer. An Englishman was retained as head of the division.

Cummings' job is to look out for the welfare of colonials in the United Kingdom. These include all overseas British subjects except those from the self-governing dominions, such as Canada and Australia, and India. His division maintains 19 hostels for colonials —five for students, seven each for seamen and industrial workers.

It has been found necessary to maintain these hostels, Cummings explains, because of the shortage of accommodations in Britain due to bombings and lack of construction during the war. It is also known that it is some times difficult to find accommodations for colored persons in large English cities.

3-24-45

10,000 In Service

According to Cummings, there are about 10,000 colonials in the armed services based in the United Kingdom. Most of these are in the R.A.F. His office is not only interested in the housing of the industrial workers and students — the Ministry of War provides for the housing of troops—but also in job placement and training and in the provision of adequate recreational facilities. Much of his work is done in cooperation with other government and private agencies.

Also in the Colonial Office is Flight Lieutenant P. L. U. Cross of the West Indies. Lt. Cross' responsibilities are roughly similar to those of Truman Gibson, civilian aide to the U.S. Secretary of War. However, he is attached to the Colonial Office rather than War Ministry.

Far fewer troops come within the scope of Cross' activities than of Gibson's. The lieutenant, who was the first colonial to win the D.S.O., is charged with the responsibility of looking out for the welfare of colonials in the R.A.F. Lt. Cross has also been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for exceptional bravery under fire. He was recently appointed to his present position.

Student Adviser

The welfare of students is the responsibility of Phillip Cox, whose official position is Adviser to Colonial Students. He is on the staff of the Director of Colonial Scholars, Colonial Office. Professionally a barrister, Cox has practiced law in England and in his native India where he was born of an East Indian mother and a West Indian father.

Appointed three years ago, his primary responsibility has been to look out for the interest of colonial students who come to the United Kingdom on government scholarships. There are about 300 such students, Cox asserts. There are an additional 750 students who are attending British colleges and universities on private resources. All of these are now required to report to the adviser's office in order to obtain exemption from national service.

Cox offers guidance to these young men and women, helps them in the choice of a university, aids them in the selection of courses aids them in locating accommodations in hostels or elsewhere, assists in the administration of finances received from government sources, and generally acts as a sort of guardian to him. Students come to him seeking advice on all sorts of problems, Cox reports.

The fourth racial relations adviser is the pouular cricket player, Larry Constantine, from the West Indies. As welfare officer in the Ministry of Labor, Constantine is assigned to work among the colonial workers who have been introduced into British industry for the first time in large numbers.

He is charged with the responsibility of looking out for the general welfare of several thousand such workers. Housing, recreation and employment are matters which fall within the scope of his activities.

3-24-45

The British racial relations advisers, like their American prototypes, not only work among colored people but also afford liaison between them and the government. They are in a position to assist both in meeting racial problems. The task in Britain, however, is far less vexing than in America because of the relatively small number of person involved and because there is far less color prejudice in the United Kingdom.

African Teacher Named For Seat In Legislature

Philadelphia Tribune
2-10-45 Phila. Pa.

NAIRONI, KENYA, West Africa—(ANP)— Eluid Wambu Mathe, 34, a member of the Kikuyu tribe, was nominated to become a member of the Kenya legislative council recently by Sir Henry Moore, Governor of Kenya.

Mathu is a principal of an African school near here. After serving as an elementary school teacher for several years he continued his studies at the "Native" college at Fort Gare, Cape Providence, in South Africa.

2-10-45

Mathu left there on a scholarship for Balliol college, Oxford university, where he completed his education prior to the appointment as principal.

Africans Elected To French Parliament

THIRTY-three French colonial deputies will have seats in the new Assembly, and will be joined, it is hoped, by the representatives of Indo China, and will play an important part in the establishment of the IV Republic. The presence in the Constituent Assembly of such personalities as Mr Lamine Gueye, deputy of SFIO and mayor of Dakar; Mr Senghor, professor at the Universite; Dr Verges, mayor of Reunion and syndicate representative; Mme. Eboue widow of Governor General Felix Eboue the writer, Fili Babo Ssoko of the Sudan; Mr Monerville, already a member of the Consultative Assembly and many other such personalities, certainly marks a major event. The intervention of these delegates, and the weight carried by their votes, will force the constituents to face, in the light of the French community, the great political problems upon which depends the destiny of 110,000 000 men.

Guadeloupe election returns show that Madame Eugenie Telle Eboue wife of the late Governor General of French West Africa was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly by 14 441 votes

Pan-African Conference Demands Death Of Crown Colony Government System

Independent Labour Party Felicitates

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our Special Correspondent

MANCHESTER.— Demands for the abolition of all forms of racial discrimination and the immediate abolition of the Crown colony system of colonial administration were voiced by delegates at the second session of the Pan-African Congress.

"You have to win the battle for complete political independence," declared Mr John McNair, General Secretary of the Independent Labour Party, who brought greetings to the congress.

Mr McNair told the coloured men and women to go back and let their people know that British imperialists will never voluntarily free the colonies.

"You will never win self-government by trusting the hypocrisy of the British imperialist class.

"You know perfectly well that British imperialism has often told us it has gone to the colonies to spread Christianity and civilization, but the imperialists of Great Britain headed by the Tory party are as short-minded and short sighted as they are ignorant," added Mr McNair.

Reporting upon conditions of the natives in South Africa, Peter Abrahams, the young coloured South African author, speaking on behalf of the International African Service Bureau, characterised South Africa as a vast concentration camp for the blacks.

While Mr Mako Hlubi, a Zulu from the Transvaal, said conditions under the government of that Dominion was hell for the Africans.

He described the native policy of General Smuts as "colonial fascism."

Speaker after speaker denounced the hypocrisy of General Smuts who, while practising Nazi methods in South Africa, poses as a great liberal and humanitarian to the outside world.

A message of greetings to the congress was read from Dr Xuma, President of the Native Congress of South Africa who was refused a passport to leave that country to attend the congress.

Speaking for the 8,000,000 natives of the Union, Dr Xuma appeals to the Pan-African Congress to help mobilise world public opinion on the side of the Bantu peoples.

"The Colonial Office in London, dominated by imperialists, whether Tory or Labour, is an instrument of colonial oppression and we must abolish it," said Mr Magnus Williams, a delegate of the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

Mr Williams told the congress of the opposition of Nigerians to the minerals ordinance, whereby the rights in minerals found in Nigeria are vested in the Crown.

The administration in Nigeria was an alien one.

It was not the government of the people, but "the British in Nigeria."

It was as alien as any European country under German occupation.

Mr Williams was supported by Mr C. W. Downes Thomas, a journalist from the Gambia and one of the delegates of the Citizens Committee of that colony.

"The Crown colony system," said Mr Thomas, "had outlived its day, and was undemocratic and unprogressive.

"It should be immediately abolished by the new Labour government as a gesture of their sincerity in advancing the colonial peoples towards self-government."

However, he warned the delegates that they must not expect too much from the Labour government, which in imperial affairs was as conservative as the Tories.

He made a passionate appeal to the congress to demand the freedom of the press, which in the colonies was surrounded by all forms of restrictions.

The congress closed after hearing greetings from a fraternal delegate from the people of Cyprus

REVIEW GIVES HIGHLIGHTS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN YEAR 1944

Cites Anglo-Ethiopian Agreement and Death Of Governor-General Felix Eboue

TUBMAN INAUGURATED AS PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA) The death of Governor-General Felix Eboue and the negotiation of a new Anglo-Ethiopian agreement were highlights in the review of important events in African affairs during 1944 carried in the New Africa, published by the Council on African Affairs for January, 1945. The review includes the following:

"January—Mr. W. V. S. Tubman was inaugurated on the third day of the year, succeeding Edwin Barclay as president of Liberia, Africa's only republic.

"Ethiopia's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mr. B. L. Taezaz, arrived in Moscow and presented his credentials.

"The South African Labor Party called upon the Labor Minister of the Dominion to 'make all possible efforts to speed up' legal recognition of African trade unions.

February—A history-making colonial policy conference of French administrators and governors in Africa and adjacent islands was held at Brazzaville, capital of French Equatorial Africa and residence of Governor-General Felix Eboue.

"A commission of technical experts was sent to Ethiopia, at the request of that government, by the Foreign Economic Administration of the United States to assist in increasing the production of food and other essential commodities in Ethiopia.

"March—South African mine workers received increases of 8c to 10c a day, considerably below the recommendations of the Commission which held long hearings and still more below the 40c a day increase which had been asked by the workers. (The current average wage for Aricans is 47c a day).

"May—Felix Eboue died in Cairo, Egypt, on the 17th of the month at the age of 59. 'The great French African,' General De Gaulle said, 'has died from hard work, but what he represented has entered into the very spirit of France.'

"A great demonstration against the iniquitous Pass system in South Africa took place in Johannesburg when 540 delegates, representing over 600,000 people and some 375 trade union, peasant, religious and other organizations, assembled at Gandhi Hall and asked immediate repeal of the pass laws.

"Emperor Haile Selassie took steps toward severing the traditional domination of the Egyptian Coptic church over the Ethiopian church, announcing that the next Archbishop of the Ethiopian Coptic church would be appointed from the ranks of the Ethiopian bishops.

"June—The Governor of Kenya announced his intention of appointing an African for the first time as a representative of his people in the Kenya Legislative Council, setting a precedent for the other Eastern and Southern British territories in Africa where no direct African representation in the legislative councils yet exists.

"The South African Parliament passed a Native Laws Amendment Bill containing provisions which the Cape Times acknowledged 'entrench and extend existing ba practices' and represent 'arbitrary interferences with the elementary rights of human beings who are singled out for no reason other than the color of their skins.'

"August—The Second Annual Conference of the Trades Union Congress of Nigeria met in Lagos. Delegates of more than 64 trade unions, embracing a membership of approximately 400,000 were present.

"The first American-made plane was delivered to Ethiopia under the lend-lease agreement with that country.

"October—The British Colonial Office made known its approval of some of the constitutional revisions requested by the African rulers and people of the Gold Coast. Principal changes approved were the granting of representation for the first time from the Ashanti Confederacy in the Legislative Council and provision for an unofficial majority of 18 members as against 1 2official or appointed members in the Council.

"An economic commission including Negro technicians was sent by this government to Liberia, in response to the request from that country, to make an extensive survey of economic needs and development possibilities.

"November—The long-standing resentment of Indians against the discrimination forced upon Indian immigrants in South Africa reached a climax when the Indian Central Legislative Assembly of India took steps to retaliate against South Africans residing in India.

"A wave of mob violence swept over Johannesburg on the first Sunday of the month, leaving at least one African dead, scores injured, and the offices of the Bantu World ,African newspaper, destroyed by fire.

"Representatives of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association began a government-sponsored tour of West African territories.

"Announcement was made of a five-year health program in Liberia, sponsored by this government, to be undertaken by an all-Negro team of eleven American physicians and technicians.

"December—A new agreement between Ethiopia and Great Britain was reached.

"Wallace Johnson, noted West African leader, was released from detention."

25 Million Negroes Getting New Deal In French Africa

Chicago Defender Ill. 1-13-45

WHEN DeGAULLE REVIEWED EBOUE TROOPS

1-13-45

By THYRA EDWARDS and MURRAY GITLIN

NEW YORK.—When M. Rene Pleven recently resigned as Minister of Colonies of France in order to take over the portfolio of finance, one important question that people wanted answered was: What will happen to the new French colonial policy and program that the late Felix Eboue worked a lifetime to create?

It was Felix Eboue, first Negro ever to attain the rank of governor-general in the colonial administration of any major power, who more than any one person was responsible for the revolutionary change in colonial policy formulated at the Brazzaville conference last February.

That M. Pleven's resignation was not due to any projected change in this policy was made evident in the telegram sent to the colonies by M. Paul Giacobbi, his successor, in which the new Minister of Colonies said:

"The administrative reforms that were provided for in Brazzaville shall be carried out. The policy which tends to uplift the masses and give responsibility to the most progressive elements shall be maintained; consequently, we shall elaborate plans for public hygiene, for education and for economic organization, all of which must be carried out in detail."

1-13-45

Reforms Started

When Felix Eboue died suddenly in Cairo, Egypt, last May, many of these far-reaching reforms had already been started. It was this brilliant black Frenchman, trained in colonial administration, master of nine native dialects and author of a dictionary of three of them, who in his famous document on native policy issued Nov. 8, 1942 supplied the meat and bones for the now famous Brazzaville conference and the world significant changes adopted there. These in the main were:

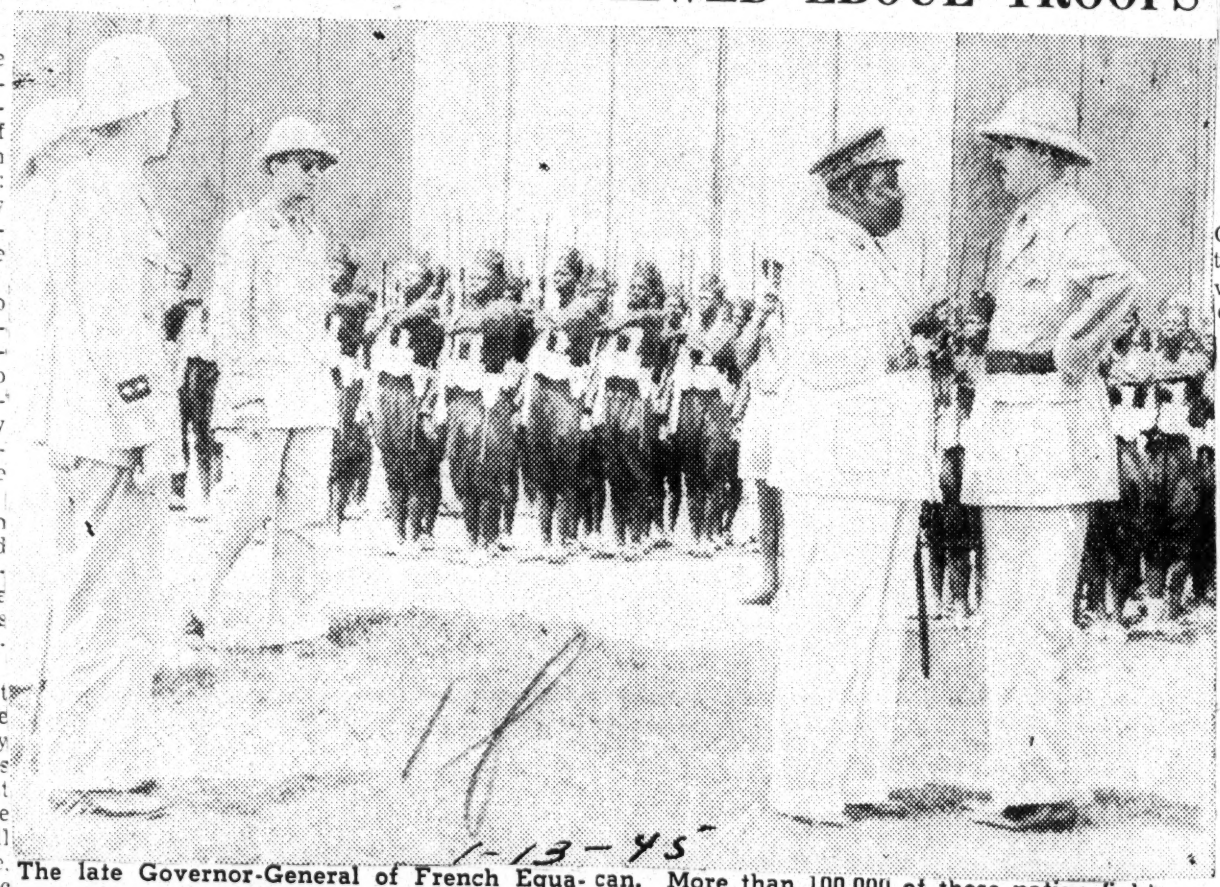
1. Natives were to develop within the framework of their own traditional institutions rather than assimilate to the European conception of civilization.

2. Natives were to be given a larger representation in the French Parliament and local affairs.

1-13-45

3. The status of women was to be improved so that they could no longer be bought and sold by native chiefs through traffic in the marriage "dot" (dowry), and the extensive practice of polygamy was to be eliminated.

4. Primary schools were to be established for boys and girls in every village, and native teachers were to be trained to take over.



The late Governor-General of French Equatorial Africa, Felix Eboue, presents first troops to rally to Free French to General De Gaulle in 1940. Until June invasion, two-thirds of armed forces of Fighting French were African. More than 100,000 of these native fighters were turned over by Governor General Eboue to De Gaulle. General Jacques Leclerc (left, two stars on sleeve), commanded a column of these men in two famous desert campaigns.

1-13-45

Planned Economy

5. New hospitals were to be built and thousands of natives trained as doctors in order to fight the diseases that had ravaged the people for generations—malaria, sleeping sickness, tuberculosis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, gonorrhea and syphilis.

1-13-45

6. A planned economy was to be worked out which would raise the living standard for the ill-nourished, ill-housed population.

1-13-45

To France goes the honor of being the first major power to break with the old colonial philosophy of exploitation for the benefit of the mother country and to put into practice the theory that colonial administration is a senior-junior partnership.

1-13-45

The territory covered by this program comprises 3,500,000 square miles—an area larger than the United States—with a native population of 25,000,000. French Equatorial Africa alone, of which Felix Eboue was governor-general, is five times the size of France.

Though rich in resources, French Negro Africa long was scourged by disease, exploitation and famine. This territory is now beginning to stir with activity. A 20-year plan will send 1500 French doctors to Africa, as well as thousands of French nurses, to operate stationary and traveling health centers.

1-13-45

Preliminary work has already been begun on opening up a medical school for young Africans. Recently M. Pleven declared that there would be an elementary school for every 50 African children, to be followed by high school, college and professional training.

New roads and railroads have been opened up. The human carrier, the "tipoyeur," is giving way to modern streamlined buses. Allied ships steam into modern harbors. Allied passengers board four-motored planes from modern airports.

In 1939 France's budget for French Equatorial Africa was 19,500,000 francs. This had gone up to 57,500,000 francs in 1943 under the Free French. Four million three hundred thousand francs were spent on education in 1939, 20,200,000 in 1943.

1-13-45

That this new historic policy must have repercussions on other colonial powers seem likely. Several observers from the neighboring Belgian and British colonies attended the Brazzaville conference and heard Felix Eboue outline his plan for a New Deal for Africa. The British Trade Union Congress has sent leaders to Africa to help native workers organize and press for a change. Last year the Netherlands announced a new enlightened colonial policy for the post-war period. But it remained or France to start the ball rolling.

Madame Eboue Is Elected Member Of Constituent Assembly

Houston, Texas Informer

BASSE TERRE, Oct. 25, 1945 — Guadeloupe election returns show that Madame Eugenia Telle Eboue, wife of the late Governor General of French West Africa, has been elected a member of the Constituent Assembly by 14,441 votes. Latest returns from Basse Terre indicate that Dr. Rosengirared was also elected in this district by 9,830 votes. In the Pointe-a-Pitre district, the following candidates were elected: Mr. Valentino with 21,703 votes; Mr. Satineau, 1,370 votes; Mr. Chanlot, 146 votes; and Mr. Alcandre 174 votes.

11-10-45

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AFRICAN CHARTER

The Cape Standard, commenting on Dr. Malan's African Charter, says: "The London or San Francisco conferences may take up Dr. Malan's idea and give us a special charter for non-Europeans. But as long as there is segregation or trusteeship, such a charter will be worth as much as the Atlantic Charter—exactly nothing.

"We do not need to wait for their charter. We have our own, the ten-point programme for full democratic rights. This is our charter, not only for the Union, but for the whole of Africa."

King Yeta Abdicates African Throne

By GEORGE PADMORE
(Defender London Correspondent)

LONDON — While European kings, repudiated by their peoples, are desperately clinging to their shaky thrones, Africa's most famous ruler, King Yeta, paramount chief of Barotseland in Northern Rhodesia covering an area larger than France, has voluntarily abdicated because of old age.

As king Yeta, who is now 74, ruled over a million subjects during the past 50 years. He represented Africa at the coronation of King George in 1937.

People here recall the distinguished black ruler who always carried an ivory-handled flyswitch during his tour. It is now revealed that shortly after Yeta returned from England to Barotesland, he suffered a stroke which paralyzed him.

Yeta will be succeeded by one of his sons.

Conferees Ask Independence For Africans

Pan-African Parley Says Force Will Be Last Resort

By DR. W. E. B. DUBOIS
Research Director, NAACP, and Widely-Known Author
Special Correspondence

MANCHESTER, England, Oct. 22.—The Fifth Pan-African Congress ended here yesterday with an appeal signed by 200 delegates representing 60 nations and groups of African descent calling for autonomy and independence. It said:

"Delegates of the Fifth Pan-African Conference believe in peace. How could they do otherwise when for centuries they have been the victims of violence and slavery? Yet if the world is still determined to rule mankind by force, then Africans as a last resort may have to appeal to force in order to achieve freedom, even if force destroys them and the world.

"We are determined to be free. We want education, the right to earn a decent living, to express our thoughts and emotions, and to adopt and create all forms of beauty.

'We Demand . . .'

". . . We demand for Black Africa autonomy and independence insofar as it is possible in this one world for groups of peoples to rule themselves subject to inevitable world unity and federation.

". . . we are unwilling any longer to starve while doing the world's drugery in order to support by our poverty and ignorance a false aristocracy and discredited imperialism.

"We condemn monopoly of capital and rule of private wealth and industry for private profit alone. We welcome economic democracy as the only real democracy . . ."

The conference also heard these charges and complaints:

¶ Ethiopia demanded the return of Eritrea and Somaliland and ports on the sea.

Poverty and Neglect

¶ West Indies complained of poverty and neglect due to land monopoly and low wages in the face of 100 per cent rise in the cost of living.

¶ West Africans complained of the refusal of the new Colonial Secretary of the Labor Government to agree to any change at present in the economic controls now in use.

It was emphasized that in West Africa, ginger, which used to sell at £25 ($100) a ton and then in wartime rose to £100 ($400), was bought from the black farmers under complusion at £11 ($44) in peacetime and £30 ($120) in wartime.

Delegates told of families receiving an average of five pounds a year for their work and skilled labor, two shillings (40 cents) a day.

The delegates for the most part were sent directly from the African colonies. Represented were Gambia which has 200,000 Negroes; Sierra Leone, 1,000,000; the Gold Coast, four millions, the Union of South Africa, 7½ millions; Nigeria, more than 20 millions; and other colonies in North Africa and the West Indies.



MADAME EBOUE'

GUADELOUPE SENDS FIRST WOMAN DEPUTY

By J. A. ROGERS
Courier Columnist

NEW YORK—Madame Eugenia Eboue' widow of Governor-General Felix Eboue', of Chad Province, passed through New York City last week on her way from Gaudeloupe to France, where she is to take the seat in the new Constituent Assembly to which she has been elected.

In an interview given at the French consulate last Friday, she said that both she and her late husband had been sentenced to death in absentia by the Vichy government. Her daughter, Ginette, who was at a school near Paris, was thrust out and finally made her way to Spain. Of her three sons, two were captured by the Germans, but escaped through a ruse; the third, 19 years of age, was studying in Cairo at the outbreak of the war and going to England, joined the RAF, and later was a pilot in the French Air Force.

Madame Eboue', who was born in French Guiana, spent twenty-one years in Africa to the thirty-four of her distinguished husband. There, in the critical months of 1940 when France fell, she and her husband played a decisive role in swinging French Africa to the side of the Allies. She said that little or no difficulty was experienced in getting the natives not to side with Vichy since they would have no part of anything thta savored of Germany, but that the trouble was with most of the white governors and officials, who felt they owed allegiance to Vichy.

However, her husband, with her help, finally succeeded in winning them over to General de Gaulle. Mme. Eboue revealed that her husband was selected for the post in Equatorial Africa chiefly because of his loyalty. M. Mandel, then Secretary for the Colonies, feeling that the war was approaching, induced him to take the post. When war came, M. Mandel assured the French Cabinet that it had nothing to fear in Africa since Eboue was there.

FIRST WOMAN DEPUTY

Mme. Eboue, who is the first woman elected to the French parliament from the West Indies, is the daughter of a French government official and studied at Montauben in France, completing her education in Paris. Fond of music, she wanted to go to the Paris Conservatory to study piano, but was not permitted by her parents. She took private lessons, however, and is now an accomplished pianist, her favorite being Beethoven and Chopin.

Her love of music was shared by her husband and her interest in this brought her many friends among the Africans. While among them she studied the drum language of Equatorial Africa and the whistle language of French West Africa, becoming so adept at both that she astonished natives, who thought that these languages could be understood only by themselves. She transposed some of the themes into modern musical scores and together with her husband, published a book on each of the two languages.

NURSED IN AFRICA

During the war she abandoned her music and spent her time in a hospital at Brazzaville nursing the sick and wounded. She was also one of the first volunteers of the French WAC. Due to her youthful appearance, it is hard to believe she is the mother of a 30-year-old son.

She wears the ribbon of the Resistance, of which she is very proud, and which she seems to think more of than the Legion of Honor. She was elected in Guadeloupe on the Socialist branch of the Resistance ticket and as such received over a third more votes than her male confrere, Dr. Rosingard. Already outstanding in her own right, she intends to carry on where her distinguished husband left off. She thinks that the Socialists in the new French Assembly are going to do more for Africa than any of the former governments.

Thirty-one women will be in the new assembly, a fact which pleases Mme. Eboue. This number is greater than England or America. She feels that this is a great beginning since women did not vote in France before, and believes that this large number of feminine representatives will have a great influence in making a better France, especially since it is now so depopulated by the war.

NATIVES FAVOR FRANCE

Mme. Eboue stresses her belief that the natives of French Africa want to remain under French rule and that they think of themselves as no other than French men and women, France, she asserted, has always practiced a liberal policy to her colonials, giving them French education and at the same time not disturbing their native customs, but permitting these to change only as the result of evolution. It is her belief that this policy is going to be even more liberal under the new regime. She made it clear that French Africans are not asking for independence but wish even more to be allied with the mother country.

In the colony administered by her late husband, the natives had their own newspaper. The new governor-general, a Negro, is M. Bayardelle of Martinique, formerly Governor of New Caledonia in the Pacific. A mass education program for the natives has been instituted in French West Africa, she proudly informed. Mme. Eboue also told of the American Protestant missions working among the natives in Equatorial Africa and said that she would like to see some colored Americans among them.

When asked what the natives thought of the United States, she hesitated, but finally said that the impression was not a good one since most of them had heard of the treatment of colored people in America. Mme. Eboue denied the current rumor that the death of her husband had been hastened in Cairo in order to get him out of the way. She left by air for France on Saturday.

Elected

The Journal & Guide



Madame Eugenie Tell Eboue, of Guadaloupe, French Equatorial Africa, widow of the late Felix Eboue, governor general of French Equatorial Africa, is one of the thirty-one women elected to the French Constituent Assembly which convened in Paris on Tuesday 11/10-45

Time 5-14-45



British Officic

CHIEFS NKUA II, AGYEMAN IV
They invoked the spirits of the dead.

GOLD COAST N.Y.

Time 5-14-45

Union Now

The British Government has long urged the dozens of native potentates under its rule to unite for the sake of greater prosperity. Now the first voluntary union of two African rulers has taken place.

Before their approving headmen two Paramount Chiefs—Nana Atta Agyeman IV of Sefwi Bekwai and Nana Kwami Nkua II of Sefwi Wiawso—joined hands in ostentatious amity. For the occasion both wore richly colored robes with gold crowns on their heads. Spokesmen for the two tribes invoked the spirits of departed Bekwai and Wiawso chiefs to tell them they were now as one. In turn the living chiefs blessed the new union.

Henceforth the two states will function as one. Both chiefs will preside in turn over the affairs of state. But both will continue to be Paramount Chiefs.

le-1945

Natives Rebel In S. Africa

Informer- 4-7-45
Houston, Texas

JOHANNESBURG, S. AFRICA — (ANP) — More than 100 people are reported to have been injured here during the recent riot between native Africans and Europeans while full details on the clash of Indians and Europeans in Natal province are still undisclosed.

18 Arrested

4-7-45

Police charge that the natives were lead by African nationalist leaders. Eighteen including a woman, have already been arrested. They will be charged with violating the riotous assemblies act, which makes it a criminal offense for more than five Africans to assemble without special police permit.

An effort is also being made to apprehend fascist leaders, police disclosed. The white fascist belonged to the greyshirt "Christian National South African Republican party," headed by Dr. Malap, a Lutheran preacher. Dr. Malap plans to organize a fascist regime here, reports reveal.

Break Precedent at White House

Balt., Md.

Presidents of Haiti and Liberia Guests

DIXIE CRITICAL

Barclay Speaker at Session of Congress

5-12-45

The war for survival caused the smashing of many precedents in American life and not the least of these was the visits of three heads of state of the darker countries who were guests at the White House.

Ever since the days of Theodore Roosevelt a controversey has raged on Capitol Hill as to whether Booker T. Washington actually ate dinner at the White House or not.

The mere mention of the incident was enough to make ribald southerners see red. The thought that a colored man had desecrated the sacred White House by eating a meal there was too much for Dixie palates to swallow.

Columnists "Explain"

Reams of copy was devoted by columnists trying to explain the affair away. The accepted version among many was that Booker T. Washington did not actually eat a meal there at all.

He happened to be in conference with Teddy when the latter's lunch was served on a tray, they contended and Roosevelt offered his guest a morsel.

The latter took an apple or a piece of pie or something to nibble on. The south was able to stomach this, and they wrote it off an exaggeration of Booker T's own account that he was a "feet under the table" guest in the executive mansion.

That is why the report that President Barclay of Liberia would be a guest caused a controversy.

Afro-American

A colored gentleman eating apples in the White House was strain enough on Dixie nerves—one sleeping between the White House linen was unthinkable.

There was speculation first that FDR would not risk losing the Dixie vote by sending the invitation and further that Barclay would not embarrass his host by accepting.

But both guesses were wrong. The bid was extended and Barclay not only came himself, but during the interim he had been succeeded by W. V. S. Tubman, president elect, so both dignataries came.

Hits Inclusion of South Africa

Daily Worker
New York, New York

Objection to the inclusion of the Union of South Africa as a member of the temporary trusteeship committee of the United Nations Organization was voiced by the Council on African Affairs in a letter sent yesterday by Dr. Max Yergan to Edward Stettinius, American delegate to the United Nations Organization.

According to a recommendation made to the executive committee of the UNO, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the Netherlands, together with the Big Five will have places on the temporary trusteeship committee.

10-29-45

In his letter to Mr. Stettinius, Dr. Yergan pointed out that South Africa's **"established policy of racial discrimination" disqualified that state from serving as a trustee over any dependent territory or as a member of the trusteeship committee of the UNO.**

The letter cited the statement made by Prime Minister Smuts to the General Assembly of South Africa last march: **"There were certain things about which South Africans of all sections and all parties—except those who were quite mad—were agreed. The first was our fixed policy to maintain white supremacy in South Africa."**

South Africa Labeled 'Fascist' by Africans

11-6-45

MANCHESTER, England, Nov. 5. —A resolution condemning the policy toward Africans and other non-Europeans carried out by the Union of South Africa, "which, although representing itself abroad as a democracy, manifests essentially the same characteristics as fascism," was passed at the Pan-African Congress here recently.

Daily Worker

Reforms demanded included the franchise for all men and women at 21; compulsory, free, and uniform education up to 16; inviolability of person, house and privacy; freedom of speech, movement, and occupation.

N. Y., N. Y.

Race Prejudice In Africa Told

P.M.
New York

Dr. Wulf Sachs of Johannesburg declares that there is dangerously little known outside of South Africa on the prejudices there against the non-whites—Negroes, Indians and mulattos.

11-18-45

Dr. Sachs, a psychiatrist who also edits the non-profit Johannesburg fortnighty, *The Democrat*, told a meeting of the Council on African Affairs at the Hotel Riverside Plaza Friday night that non-whites have no human standing in the Union and warned that their plight must become known because:

The U. S. A. is the only nation to whose opinion South Africa is responsive.

South Africa, being the richest and politically most important part of Africa, is the most influential and conditions which exist there are reflected elsewhere in the continent.

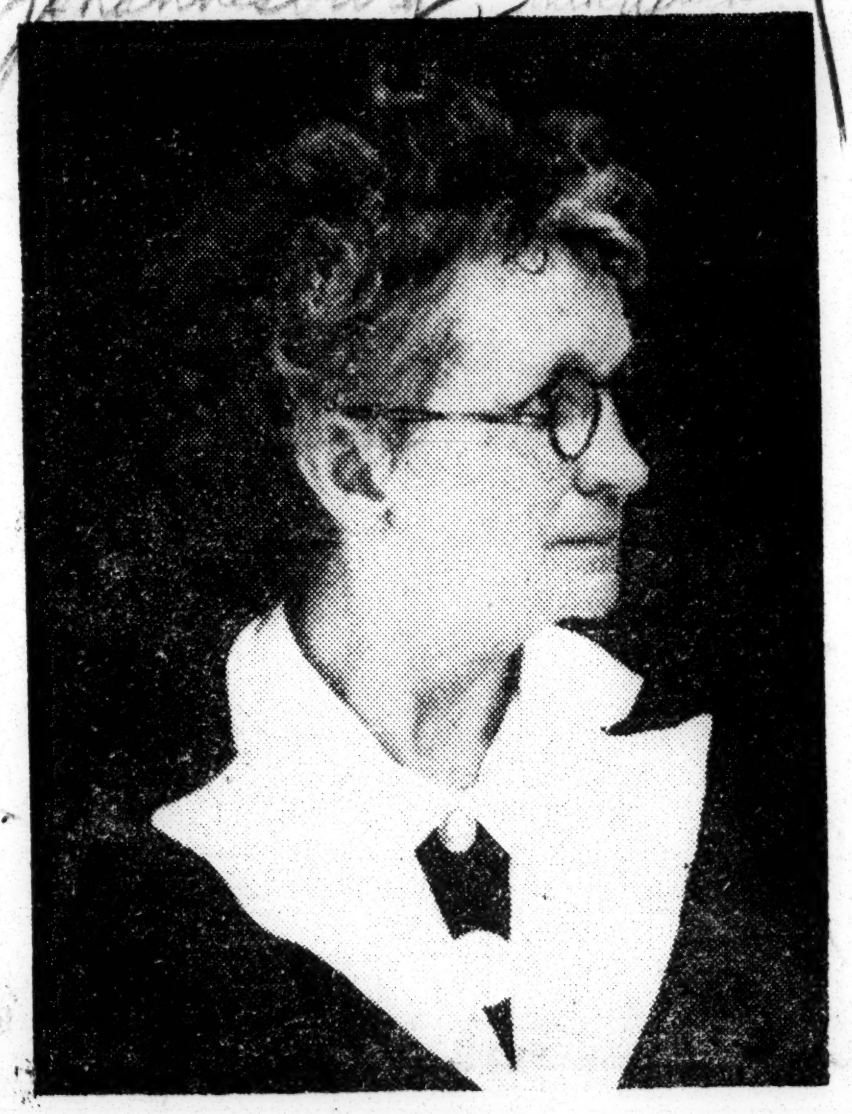
Many books, he said, propagate the fiction that the abuse of non-whites is at the instigation of the Afrikaanders, the Dutch settlers of South Africa.

11-18-45

"That is a lie," he said, "a shifting of guilt. All white, in their essential attitudes, form a front against the non-Europeans."

THE FIRST LADY OF THE LAND IS OUR FRIEND

Barclay Visit
Johannesburg, South Africa



MRS. SMUTS

Mrs. J.C. Smuts, wife of the South African Prime Minister, is a loved figure throughout our land. Her motto through life has always been one of service, but even more it has been her kindliness and sincerity that have made her a personification of all that is best in our national life. We particularly remember her courage during the dark years of the war and her steadfast championship of the cause of progress when it seemed that the Nazis had the world almost at their feet.

Mrs. Smuts has never spared time nor strength in the service of others. We particularly remember the lead she gave to the 'Gifts and Comforts Fund' for which our soldiers, both African and European, have expressed their real gratitude.

We hope that Mrs. Smuts will long remain active in our public life for her recognition of the African's share in our nationhood stands out as an example to all.

We reproduce below a letter recently received by us from Mrs. Smuts. It is of great interest to readers to know that the wife of the Prime Minister is a subscriber to your national paper, the 'Bantu World.' We have naturally obtained Mrs Smuts' permission to reproduce her letter, but it was first sent to us from the kindness of her heart without any solicitation on our part.

Irene,
12.10.45.

Secretary,
Bantu World,
Johannesburg.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find cheque for 10/- being subscription to "Bantu World" for one year. We are glad to see that it has started again & we wish it every success in the good work it is doing.

Yours faithfully
Vic K. Smuts.



NEW GOVERNOR-GENERAL

It was officially announced last Monday that the King had approved the appointment of the Honourable G. B. van Zyl as Governor-General of South Africa. Major van Zyl, at present administrator of the Cape Province, will assume office on January 1, 1946. He is the seventh Governor-General of the Union, but the first to be South African born. As Governor-General, Major van Zyl will be the direct representative of the King in the Union and so will hold the highest office in our land. Constitutionally he is outside the realm of politics and is the person who, under our system of government, calls upon the leader of the majority party in the House of Assembly to form a government. He is also the Supreme Chief of all Africans in the Transvaal, Natal and the Orange Free State. Major van Zyl, who is now 72, has been a keen sportsman in his time, but his main hobby is now gardening. Mrs. van Zyl is especially interested in work among young people and has raised thousands of pounds for war work by holding weekly markets.

SERVICE IN RESTAURANT CARS

By ADESEGUN ODUMBAKU

Permit me a space in your widely read journal to bring to the notice of the General Manager, Nigerian Railway and the General Manager, United Africa Company Limited certain discriminatory measures adopted by their agents, particularly the storekeeper attached to the restaurant car of the Kano train which arrived in Lagos on Saturday, May 5.

On May 4, I was a passenger in the said train from Kaduna to Ibadan and being thirsty I went to the storekeeper for a bottle of beer (iced or otherwise), the storekeeper in the presence of friends bluntly told me that there was none in stock and that the few that remained are reserved for European customers.

To test this statement of his, I approached a European friend of mine, a Doctor Henry, attached to the Bida Hospital (a graduate of the same university as myself) to help me out of the situation.

He immediately sent for a steward, and to my surprise a bottle of well iced beer was produced.

Later, I put the storekeeper to task and endeavouring to explain his actions committed himself.

I wish to think that rules like these are made by the storekeeper to suit himself and not a definite instruction from headquarters.

IBADAN.

Stalin Orders Commanders Of Red Army To Stamp Out Racial Discrimination

Jim Crow-istic Laws To Be Abolished

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.—A significant statement issued here, reveals that Marshal Stalin, Georgian-born leader of the Soviet Union, has instructed military commanders of the Red Army ruthlessly to stamp out all forms of racial discrimination and Jim-Crow laws in countries occupied by the Soviet forces.

According to Professor Komarov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Stalin's warning should be heeded by all malicious spreaders of racial hatred and racial practices.

The professor explained that according to the laws of the Soviet Union active racists and anti-Semites are punished by death.

"Anti-Semitism is the most dangerous survival of cannibalism," declared Stalin in 1931.

Now, the Soviet Union will put that idea into practice in Poland, Rumania, Hungary, hotbeds of anti-Semitism long before Hitler became a menace to Europe.

"In future," says Professor Komarov, "we shall not turn our backs on racial practices until we have stamped them out, pulled them up by the roots, and taken every measure against their recurrence.

"When any country gives shelter to the Hitlerites or their ideas in the form of discriminatory legislation, racist organisations or a racist press, it is no longer an internal affair of that country."

DANGEROUS THAN GAS

"If your neighbour opens in his backyard a container of poison gas which threatens to spread over the town," continues Professor Komarov, "you do not waste time by asking permission to enter his premises to prevent the death of thousands of people.

"Racist ideas are more dangerous than any poison gas.

"It is our solemn duty to future generations, to civilization and humanity, not only to put out the present bon-fire of Nazi-Facism in Europe, and elsewhere, but to discover and extinguish every one of its sparks and smouldering embers, wherever they may be found."

RACIAL EQUALITY

Asked to comment upon Professor Komarov's statement, a Soviet representative in London let it be known that one of the things Russia will demand at the Peace Conference table is a clause pledging racial equality not only for Jews but all the non-European races of Asia, Africa, and other continents and countries inhabited by coloured peoples.

It will be remembered that during the 1919 Paris Peace Conferenc, the Japanese delegation headed by Baron Makino, proposed to the victorious powers the adoption of a race equality clause as part of the Covenant of the League of Nations.

Supported by Haiti and a number of other small powers, the proposed amendment was strenuously opposed by the South African delegation headed by General Smuts and certain members of the British delegation with the tacit support of the Americans.

Another West African Is Arrested In London: Three Whites Are Alleged Shot

LONDON.—Another inter-racial shooting incident has occurred, this time, at the Camden Town tube station and one West African is in custody on a charge of unlawful wounding with intent to murder.

His name is Hughes

It was the result of colour bar again.

Briefly the facts are as follows:

Hughes was alleged to be ascending the escalator with a white girl friend when one white man passed the usual remark "nigger."

This was resented and a scuffle ensued, and other white men were said to have joined in and beat Hughes to the ground.

When he recovered from the shock of surprise, he displayed vigorously the usual African prowess and knocked down four white men.

Another African arrived just in time.

His name is Campbell.

The whole tube station became a pandemonium, and all of a sudden shots were fired and three white men fell.

Hughes and Campbell were arrested, but no weapon was found upon either of them.

Hughes was then charged as already reported.

The matter is still sub judice.

Mr Koi Larbi is defending Hughes.

Colonial Delegates To World TUC Contab Lagos
Demand Finis To Race Ban In Unions
West AFRICAN Pilot
South Africa & Rhodesia Are Cited

LONDON, Feb. 14—Colonial delegates to the World Trade Union Conference tabled a resolution demanding the abolition of racial restrictions against admittance of African and coloured workers into existing white trade unions (South Africa and Rhodesia), and granting the right to Africans and other coloured workers wherever such restrictions continue to operate, to create separate and free trade unions. 2-15-45

The delegates appealed to the conference to assist in building up strong independent trade union movements in the colonies.

Other immediate demands are abolition of colour bar and all racial discriminations in public and private employment, abolition of forced labour and all forms of slavery, open or disguised, establishment of the right to free assembly and free speech and equal pay for equal work, irrespective of race, colour, creed or sex.

The delegates called upon the conference to endorse the principle of self-determination for colonial peoples as enunciated in article three of the Atlantic Charter and called upon the signatories of the charter to fix a time limit within which the principle shall be translated into practice (Reuter). 2-15-45

lf-1945

Y.W.C.A. Launches Its 1st Social Programme

West African pilot

Lagos

The first social gathering of the Young Women Christian Association, Lagos, took place in their Broad Street premises, recently, with Miss Mabel Oye Coker, Assistant Secretary of the association, as hostess.

Members of the Lagos branch of the Young Men Christian Association were present together with a large number of other invitees.

The function opened with a song and prayer, after which Miss Coker explained the reason for the gathering.

She said that the time had come for Nigeria to realise her social backwardness.

Officials of the YWCA had seen reason for such a necessity, and had decided that such a gathering should be arranged monthly, to animate literary and social intercourse.

The attendance, she believed, showed the alertness of the Lagos community.

In the midst of applause, she concluded by asserting that arrangements would be made for a better gathering next occasion, and demanded the moral support and patronage of all present, and those who may come in later.

5-16-45

Games, songs and solos, monologues and plays, made the occasion enjoyable.

Addresses were given by others who stressed that the project would be a source of education in itself.

A.—THE LAMBA. PART II

Children's Newspaper and Family Supplement
Bantu World 4-46

By Sister Kollie.

This is the second part of Sister Kollie's story about the Lamba people who live in the regions of Northern Rhodesia.

The Lamba people had many interesting customs in the early days. With the progress of time some of these customs have disappeared, but some of them still remain today. First of all, let us see what had happened when a child was born. Johannesburg

On the day of a child's birth there was much rejoicing and dancing by the women. The midwife, called "Nyinachimbila" received a fee of a buck-cloth, calico and some corn for her services. A fowl would then be killed and eaten by the family. The child would be given its names by its mother's grandmother, as the Lamba reckoned descent through the mother's side, the father's names was never used. A child therefore used its mother's surname and stayed at its mother's village and inherited from its mother's people.

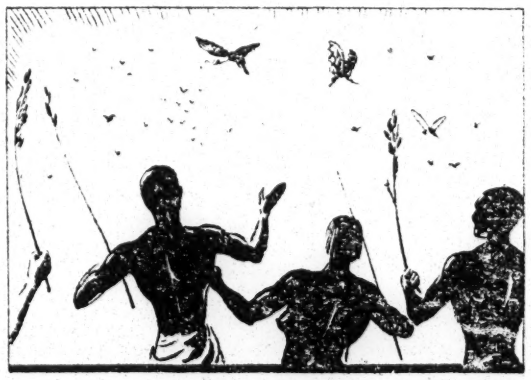
As we told you last month, the Lamba tribe is made up of a number of clans. They have a custom of pairing these clans and members of each pair jest with one another, in this manner: the Rain clan pairs with the Fire clan, because the rain can put out a fire. Similarly, the Fire clan also pairs off with the Grass clan, because fire burns grass, and so on. A Chief among the Lamba comes from the Woman's clan, so that the children of a Chief's sister are given Chieftainship, while the Chief's own children are commoners.



An initiation ceremony for girls is a feature of Lamba rites. It is called "Ichisungu." When a girl reaches maturity all the other girls dance around her in a circle. She is then secluded in a hut for four months with a midwife who is her teacher and nurse. For this the midwife is paid calico and beads. When the girl is brought out of seclusion there is great rejoicing and a party at which she receives presents. She is then ready for marriage.

Marriages were arranged by the mothers of both parties. If the girl's mother and the young man's mother agreed on the marriage of their children the young man then made a bridal pledge of an engagement gift of calico given to the girl's mother. Then he built a hut for his bride-to-be at her village. Finally he brought another gift of calico and asked for the girl in marriage. 4-45

He was then given the girl who went into her new hut and the wedding feast prepared. The marriage would be a private family affair. The girl's mother brought a hen and the young man's mother brought a cock, while the midwife brought meal and water. The chickens were washed and the meal made into porridge for the wedding feast, which was eaten only by the families. The bones were not broken, but carefully kept and given to the bridegroom who threw them away to signify that the wedding feast was over and that the marriage had been legalised. S. Africa



After the wedding feast there was another ceremony in which the bride and groom invited their young friends to go out into the veld with them where they all chased flying creatures, such as birds, flies, butterflies, mosquitoes and other flying insects. This ceremony was supposed to chase away all shyness from the groom.

As the Lamba do not pay "lobola" —it must be remembered that they cannot keep cattle because of the tsetse-flies—the husband must work for his wife's people for two years after the marriage. After this period he can then go back to his own people, taking his wife with him. An interesting habit indulged in by the Chieftains in olden days (it is not carried on today) was marriage by capture—a custom almost similar to that of the Southern Sotho, which used to be called "Ku Chobelise."

In the olden days, before Christianity came, the Lamba had their own religious beliefs. They believed in a high god called "Lisa," the creator of all things, who was supposed to have hosts of people living in his realm. They were those in the sun, and the moon; those in charge of the abode of the dead; and those guarding animals under "Kaaluwe." "Lisa" lived in heaven; he had no wife and he never slept.

They believed that a human being was divided into body, soul and spirit; that the body was buried at death, and the soul went to "Ichiyawafu," the home of the dead, there to await "Lisa." The spirit, however, was believed to return to the village, there to be born again as a baby. As a result they built spirit shrines where sacrifices were placed and where people could ask the spirits to help them in their troubles.

Unrest Among Natives.

Mochochonono
3-24-45.

Reporting an increase in unrest among urban Natives, states a report appearing in the Friend of the 20th inst., during the last 12 months owing to living conditions, a review of the activities of the Native Affairs Department in 1944 45 presented to Parliament states: Maseru, Basutoland

"A number of political organisations have come into existence during recent years, and political agitators are busy exploiting the grievances of the people often to serve their own ends." S. Africa

This unrest, the review says, is different from the more common form of industrial unrest based on dissatisfaction with wages and conditions of employment—it is due to dissatisfaction with living conditions in the locations and the laws and regulations applied in urban administration.

At Brakpan, Heidelberg, (Tvl) and Elsberg during the year Natives stayed away from work and forced others to do the same in order to air their grievances.

Officers of the Native Affairs Department persuaded the Natives to seek redress on constitutional lines. "But it is by no means certain that troubles of this nature will not recur, pending the provision of additional and improved housing and other amenities, as well as the removal of certain of the disabilities under which the Native community lives."

Trade Unions.

The trade union movement among Natives continues to grow, and the Department's files show that 62 Native trade unions have been formed on the Witwatersrand alone. 3-24-45

The review says that although cost of-living allowances have been raised generally, many Natives in the large urban areas are unable to make ends meet.

Referring to the need for systematic planning of urban development, the review says the Native Affairs Department desires to ensure the adequate suitable land, conveniently situated, is set aside for Natives at centres where urban development promises to spread over large areas.

On the new soil reclamation scheme announced by the Minister of Native Affairs in Parliament last year and since outlined to the Ciskeian General Council, the review says that a bold programme is needed to overtake the rapid deterioration that has set in owing to congestion and wrong farming methods.

"To ensure effective planning, four full-time planning committees, each in charge of a provincial zone, are to be appointed as soon as the necessary personnel can be assembled. Not only is existing erosion to be checked, but the system of farming under which Natives use their land is to be reorganised to protect the land against further damage and to procure the best return.

"These extensive undertakings in the Reserves will provide a wide field of employment for Natives near their homes. Native ex-soldiers will play a valuable part in these operations.

"These working out of the full scheme is expected to take about 12 years and to cost several million pounds."

Zulu War Dance in Italy

The Bantu World
Johannesburg S. Africa

The highlight of a recent concert staged by Royal Air Force and South African Air Force Spit-Bomber wings sharing the same airfield was a Zulu war dance performed by the African personnel of the South African wing. 4-28-45

The stage had to be specially strengthened for the war dance. It had previously collapsed during a rehearsal.—SAPA-Reuter.

Prince Sees Growing Spirit Of Revenge In Exploited Africa

OUR UNIVERSAL FREE EDUCATION CAN HELP TO STEM IT HE DECLARES.

Akweke Abyssinia Nwafor Orizu, of Manhatton, is a tall, black, sober young man of 24 who calls himself "Prince Orizu." He uses the title only to impress whites with the fact that Africa has traditional governments of its own. His hearers are usually sufficiently impressed to ask what he is prince of. His answer: Nnewi.

Nnewi is a progressive monarchy in the British Protectorate of Nigeria. A. A. Nwafor Orizu was offered its throne in 1938, on the death of his father, Ezengbonyemba I. Last week in his Manhattan office he explained why he hardly warmed the throne before turning it over to his brother. His ambition: to educate in turn: 1) Orizu, 2) Nnewi, 3) Nigeria, 4) Africa.

Says deep-voiced Prince Orizu: "The type of education that is safe for our peace is the education that has no bitterness." His recently published "Without Bitterness" (Creative Age, 3 dollars) throws some bitter sidelights on the intellectual darkness of his native continent. The illiterate Nigerian man-in-the-jungle outnumbers his educated brother by more than ten to one. Orizu believes that only universal free education can help to stem the growing spirit of revenge in his long exploited continent ("Can it be that my Africa is without brothers?").

PRAGMATISM AND POLYGAMY

Though Europe's universities outrank the U.S.'s in Nigerian esteem, Orizu heard American universities praised by a fellow countryman, came to the U.S. in 1939, at Ohio State took his degree in government with honours, proceeded to an M.A. at Columbia. Through his American Council on African Education he has thus far secured 150 U.S. college scholarships for his countrymen. In a few months he expects to go home (where he may or may not resume the throne) and begin working at first hand to improve Nigeria's 36,626 schools, 380,305 pupils. Nnewi and three other Nigerian states he reports, have already contributed more than 120,000 dollars for new colleges.

A strong believer in cultural reciprocity, the Prince wants Nigeria's 23 accredited colleges to offer research-scholarships to U.S. students. Besides such hard-to-find courses as Arabic language and Nigerian history, they would provide Western visitors with insights into Nigeria's "stable family system and immaterial culture."

Prince Orizu is so literate that he has no time for the movies or dancing, once missed an appointment because he read himself to the end of the line in a Manhattan bus. His idol is Patrick Henry, one of his favourite words is American philosophy's "pragmatism," and he does not like to be called "chief." Pragmatically, Orizu has not yet decided whether polygamy, which was good enough for his father (at least 170 times a groom), is good enough for him.

—From "Time".

Young Togolander Says Britishers In Africa Still Have Slave-Owner Mentality

Replies Huxley & Co. On Backwardness

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON — Professor Julian Huxley and other anti-African sociologists and so-called colonial experts who have been decrying the Africans for their backwardness in the British press, have been answered by a young West African, Dr Kojo-ow Dzifa, of Togoland, former German colony now part of the Gold Coast.

Writing in the current issue of the leftish weekly, "New Statesman and Nation," Dr Dzifa asserts that "the anti-African sociologists have shown considerable industry in finding causes for African backwardness, and arguing that these place obstacles in the way of African autonomy."

CAUSES NOT NEW

The causes of African backwardness are not new, the writer says.

"They have been discussed for over 200 years without the slightest intention of altering them; and they will continue to be discussed for centuries more if the present politico-economic regime maintains its sway.

"The imperial authorities express their desire to effect the necessary changes in Africa, but the changes envisaged by them are not realisable except as the sequence of fundamental changes at home."

The writer goes on to say, "The question of African reconstruction can never become a dynamic reality until the imperial authorities have altered their emotional and intellectual attitude towards the Africans.

"The present ancient system which recognises the African everywhere mainly as hewers of wood and drawers of water, or as the professional inferiors of European officials with whom they hold equal (or higher) qualifications, is, at bottom, related to those mental and psychological attitudes which characterised the slave trade.

SLAVE OWNER MENTALITY

"The British rulers in Africa," asserts the writer, "have the same mentality as the slave-owners of 300 years ago.

"Although they differ greatly in their methods, yet their good or ill treatment of the Africans has its parallel in the slave trade, because the circumstances which determine the relations between the rulers and the ruled are essentially those which govern the relations between the master and servant.

"There is always a convenient tendency on the part of anti-African anthropologists to lose their objectivity, and to think of African issues and reactions as though they bear no relevance at all to the attitudes and national habits of the ruling power.

"The transformation of Africa is a bilateral phenomenon.

"It is not only the Africans who have to change for the better, but the ruling power has to alter as well.

"It is obvious that British colonial authority as it is now constituted is in the main only capable of ruling.

"It has little or no inherent inspiration which can make a reality of the African evolution which its protagonists claim for it."

TOOL OF IMPERIALISM

Concluding his letter, Dr Kojo-ow Dzifa states that "in order to show the need for British rule, the Empire conscious anthropologists relish the fashionable, and perhaps the remunerative habit of parading African backwardness in the most squalid and pessimistic colours.

"A similar displacement of emphasis was characteristic of the insensitive but humane thinkers of the pre-abolition era, who ignored the fact of slavery, while they condemned the cruelty of whipping slaves."

Dr Dzifa's reply to the Huxley and Fabian school of thought has been the subject of much discussion among West African students and colonial intellectuals in London since it appeared.

I understand that the doctor has written a book exposing the so-called professional "friends" of Africans, who behind the mask of friendship are trying to discredit the demands of western-educated young African nationalists as not truly representative of African progressive opinion.

Native Soldiers.

Mochochonono 4-2-45

He could not agree that Native soldiers who came back and did not want to return to their old work should not receive further assistance. Fifteen Natives had received decorations for gallantry If they could better themselves it was no fair to force them to return to jobs as shepherds, for instance. 4-21-45

Only a small portion of the land e marked for Natives in Natal under 1936 Act had been brought, for two reasons. The first was that the Native Trust had had great difficulty in negotiating the sale of land with owners in Natal. The owners in Natal did not want to sell their land. Secondly, the war had broken out and the purchase of all land had been curtailed. Maseru Basutoland

The question of the Natives being ejected from the Drakensberg and other areas of Natal was one for the whole Cabinet, and he had asked the acting Prime Minister for a Cabinet discussion on the matter, in which the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Lands were also interested. S. Africa

Build Houses.

If Natives could build houses economically in their own areas at a wage on which they could live decently, he did not see why they should not be allowed to do so. In other countries the Labour Party and not he (the Minister) would be regarded as reactionary.

The Native was the country's greatest asset. The economic wealth was built on his work The mines could not have developed without the Native. But the Native could not have advanced and developed without the guidance of the White man. There must be continued co-operation.—(Friend.)

Flogging Of Africans In Burma Continues But Blacks Still Lash Japanese Army

West African Pilot 1-26-45

London Africans Protest Against Irony

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

2-26-45

LONDON.— Here is an ironical story if ever there was one.

On the same day a report reached London from the South East Asia Command telling how King George's black pretorial warriors from East and West Africa are whipping the hell out of the Japanese in Burma, African nationalist organisations issued a statement to the British press protesting against the British War Office policy of flogging Negro Soldiers. 1-26-45

The statement was signed by Jomo Kenyatta, General Secretary of the Kikuyu Central Association, the leading African organisation of Kenya, East Africa, and T. R. Makonman, Secretary of the International African Service Bureau.

It is understood that a delegation of nationalist leaders from the colonies, are arranging for Colonel Oliver Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies to meet a delegation of various coloured organisations for the purpose of getting corporal punishment of African Soldiers abolished.

JUNGLE WAR FARE

According to the latest report of the fighting on the Chindwin front in Burma, the forward troops of the 11th East African Division, have routed the Japanese in decisive fighting,

The troops who carried out this operation came from half a dozen territories in East Africa — Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Nyasaland, Zanzibar and Northern Rhodesia.

Contrary to the popular impression, they do not come from the jungles, but, nearly all of them, from the rolling grasslands and pastorial areas of East Africa.

The jungle is unfamiliar to them as to the white British troops.

Nor do they possess any special immunity to malaria inspite of a certain local immunity in their tribal areas. 1-26-45

Their sickness rate, however, is said to be lower than was expected.

Most of them come from peaceable agricultural tribes; and the most warlike tribe of East Africa, the Masai is only scantily represented.

FINE PHYSIQUE

These African warriors have a very fine physique, and great stemina, and they are said to be very adaptable.

Being in an early stage of human development, they adopt themselves more quickly to jungle conditions than United Kingdom and Indian troops; they regard living in a hole in the ground with less distaste, and construct comfortable little bivouacs for themselves with amazing speed, using their long knives, called "pangas," with great dexterity. 2-26-45

TOUGHER FIGHTERS

East African troops have fought Italians in Abyssinia and Vichy French troops in Madagascar, neither of whom had their heart in the fighting.

They all agree that fighting the Japanese is a very different story and a very different sort of war.

The officers and N.C.Os. are British and Swahili is the language used.

There are probably as many as 50 different tribal tongues in use among the troops and the information platoon of the division distributes newspapers in 35 vernacular languages.

The platoon prepares a daily newspaper in Swahili, Chinyanga and English.

Nearly all the Africans can read Swahili.

Their dress is the same as British troops except for their "pangas" and their divisional badge of a rhino's head. 2-26-45

Their rations are also the same as white troops except that they like more bully beef and rice.

They get on well with the British troops and have behaved in an exemplary fashion towards the Burmese men.

Leper Colonies For The North

West African Pilot

THE evils wrought by leprosy have necessitated the acknowledgment that it is an intolerable disease. Among ancient Jews, he who had the misfortune to be leprosy-stricken was treated as an outcast and enjoined to abjure the society of men. This may be only a historical fact, but it is no less acceptable today when, in spite of advancement of medical science, this disease has not been generally proved to be curable to any greater extent than it had originally been.

Amongst the health problems facing this country, leprosy is of cardinal importance. Although it has been combatted, it has been from a charitable fund, picked up by self less workers. But even this has been on a minor scale and in limited areas. Our tributes go to the missionaries for their benevolent work in the southern leper colonies, which should have been state-handled so that the unfortunate victims might not be denied civic enjoyment in their indigence.

The northern provinces have not seen much of welfare work where it is most needed. There are abnormal cases of leprosy, so frightful that aliens have often complained about mixing with the people. But nothing commendable has been done. Rather there have been excuses that the disease is not very contagious. The story might have been different if many missionary workers had found fertile ground for the propagation of christian doctrine in the north, as in the south. But as it is, it seems that the austere atmosphere of religion in the north will yet preclude from there more benefits. 2-28-45

However, religion should not be regarded as a means to an end. In their plight, our northern brothers and the seasonal domicilists in that area should not be left unprovided for in the midst of leprosy and other dreadful diseases. And to the government who hold the people in trust and control the wealthy "native" administration treasuries of the north, we submit that the time is overdue for leper colonies to be founded in the north. Lep

Segregation in Non-European Theatres

Bantu World 7-28-45

Johannesburg, S. Africa

"Fairplay," of Sophiatown, writes: While non-Europeans are as a whole waging a battle tooth and nail against the State's segregation policy and all it stands for, we find, on the one hand, the perpetuation of this policy among non-Europeans themselves.

The position obtaining in some of the theatres meant for non-Europeans is a case in point. Recently, I paid a fee of 1/10d. for a back seat in one of our most popular theatres, but on entering the hall, the usher showed me a seat elsewhere. On investigating, I discovered to my amazement that I was given a 1/2d. seat which, for that matter, was placed in the most awkward position. 9-28-45

The African is the best patron of the non-European theatre, yet the treatment given him there leaves one at a loss. One wonders whether the proprietors of these theatres regard the African's presence there as a right or privilege. An African, it would seem, must not sit where he likes, even if he has the money to pay for a seat in a non-European theatre. He must take a seat in some nook or corner specially reserved for him. Yet this talk, this hue and cry about segregation!

Along The Colour Line

Bantu World Johannesburg

(By Wayfarer)

INDIANS IN NATAL

Speaking at Dundee, Natal, on June 23, Dr. E. G. Jansen, Chief Editor of the Nationalist paper "New Era", inter alia said that Indians in Natal aimed at dominating that province. For this reason, he urged that "Europeans should stand together in combating the dangers ahead and in seeing to it that the Government and Parliament deal with these matters on a sound and South African basis. It is a question of self-preservation and the matter, will have to be tackled in a South African spirit."

The newspaper, "New Era," by the way, is published in English only, for the purpose of wooing and winning the co-operation of the British section of the nation against the rising tide of Non-European progress in South Africa.

INDIA SPEAKS

The Indian question in Natal has roused the indignation of leaders in India. Speaking in the Council State, Mr. P. N. Sapru, one of India's liberal leaders, said: "For me the South African is no better than a German or a Japanese. We should have dealt with them as enemies of good will." 7-14-45

Dr. N. B. Khare, a member of the Legislative assembly said:

"We must declare throughout the Commonwealth and the civilised world in the plainest and most inequivocal terms that we are not prepared to submit to this racial arrogance."

What the end will be of this war of words between South Africa and India, I do not profess to know. But it is evident that reactionary forces will succeed. Already the Broome Commission appointed recently to investigate Indian affairs in Natal has recommended:

"That Natal Indians should be granted the franchise on a common roll with Europeans, but that the qualifications for the registration of Indians should be more stringent than in the case of Europeans so as to ensure that the electorate should comprise a permanent European majority."

WHITE AND BLACK

While some White South Africans are fighting for the preservation of Nazi Philosophy of life, there are white men in other parts of Africa who realise the fact that in the economic life of to-day the destinies of white and black are interlocked.

According to the "Bulawayo Chronicle," the Northern Rhodesia Unofficial Members Association, with regard to Native policy, supports the view "that Europeans and African interests are complementary to each other and that, if progress is to be achieved the African's standard of living and his economic and general position must be raised. The fact that the destinies of the two races are interlocked rules out the doctrine of paramountcy." 7-14-45

NEW AFRICA

There are many white people in this country who still think that the African of to-day is the same as that of a 100 years ago. They believe that in this changing Africa—an Africa which is fast being Europeanised—he can still be kept in his proper place.

New Africa, a Monthly Bulletin published in the United States states that Paul Robeson (leading American Negro Singer) says: "It will be a wonderful thing for Negro-white relations in the United States when the Africans show what they can do.

Many Negroes think of Africa with pain, and many white people with condescension, because both believe that Africans are inferior —they're supposed to be savages. Actually, they are on the same cultural level as many millions of Chinese and Hindus and Indians. The Soviet Union has shown that these people can catch up with modern technology and culture within a generation. 7-14-45

"The majority of the human race is still agricultural and herd-keeping—in Asia, in Maxico, in South America, in Africa,—and these people are on the verge of a development due to the impact of the war on world history. Never again can colonialism be what it was."

Africans and Social Inequality

The Bantu World Johannesburg 8-4-45

Mr Ben Matlala, Pretoria, writes: Enlightened bodies like the Transvaal African Teachers' Association have time and again voiced the plea for unity among Africans, yet with all their pleas and endeavours for unity there has been no marked progress in this direction.

The root cause of the trouble is social inequality among Africans. There is, for instance, the class of people one might term "literate", who will not readily mix with their unfortunate fellows who are illiterate. The latter their educated brethren dispise. There is another, the affluent class, which, obsessed with the idea of superior social status because of a bank credit, belittles the indigent and less affluent members of the race who are, in truth, in the majority.

No leader who purposes to unite Africans can afford to set about his mission, and achieve any measure of success, without first studying these vital points affecting our social differences. Thus far, I have known of leaders and others speak of unity among Africans appeal to us to sink our differences (tribal), but not a word about social inequality, a subject worth tackling with meticulous care, but with vigour, because it is at once delicate and yet dangerous if allowed to go on unchecked.

Our African intelligentsia — teachers, ministers of religion and students — will do well to heed this, and do everything possible to work for unity on sound lines.

ROOM ENOUGH FOR WHITE AND BLACK, SAYS SMUTS

The Bantu World South Africa 7-28-45

"There is room for white and black side by side," declared General Smuts in a speech at a State banquet at the residency of the Governor-General of Mozambique in Lourenco Marques on Monday night. "Neither is independent of the other, and each is making his indispensible contribution to the welfare of the whole."

There is one field in particular in which I believe that the States and territories of Southern Africa can make a significant contribution to human progress. I am thinking of that great complex of problems which concern the relationship between white and black in the sub-continent.

White civilisation in this region has been justified and can bear the scrutiny of history. Of that I am profoundly convinced. But our very success has brought its problems with it. The black peoples in every territory are being irresistibly drawn into the orbit of the white man's industry. In the process, the structure of their indigenous institutions is crumbling away. What is their future to be?

By their labour they have provided the material foundation of the great progress which, in the space of a generation, has transformed the face of this vast area. Our schools are opening to them a new vista of ideas and opportunity, our literature affords them a training in the political ideas of our western civilisation. In the long run, the stability of the white man's place in Africa will depend on a **modus vivendi** based on justice, granting to the African peoples of this continent opportunities for development within their capacities. 7-28-45

There is room for white and black side by side. Neither is independent of the other, and each is making his indispensable contribution to the welfare of the whole.

We are in process here, in Southern Africa, of evolving a new synthesis in which the interests of both will find expression. Success in that undertaking, slow and even painful though its fulfilment must be, would be a notable victory for the co-operative spirit over the forces of division and conflict.

Upon the outcome of that constructive effort the ultimate welfare and prosperity of this great region will depend.

1f 1945 Africa Social Conditions Discrimination

Along The Colour Line

The Bantu World

(By Wayfarer)

NEGROES AND COLOUR BAR

Johannesburg

On the eve of the San Francisco conference, the National Negro Council has asked for the representation of the 13,000,000 Negroes at the conference by an official member of the United States delegation on the permanent assembly. The council urges the outlawing of the colour bar in the United States, South Africa and India. 4-28-45

This demand is a reasonable one, and the peace-makers at San Francisco will be well advised to pay attention to it; otherwise their efforts to establish peace on earth will be made in vain.

NON-EUROPEAN UNITY

S. Africa

Speaking recently at the African People's Organisation conference in Kimberley, Dr. E. T. Dietrich, President of the Association, stated that "events of the last thirty years have shown clearly that the Government's segregation policy is directed against all sections of the non-Europeans. The Government has devised an effective policy of achieving this aim by attacking each section of the non-Europeans separately in time and place and to varying degrees. For example, the colour bar against Africans is more intense in Johanesburg than in the Cape Province. Similarly, the colour bar against Indians is more intense in Natal, where Indians predominate, than in the Cape Province. An attack against one section is usually preceded by promises or bribes to the other two sections."

All sensible men will agree that an alliance of mutual assistance in the fight for freedom is absolutely necessary among non-Europeans. But a unity movement which is sponsored and guided by Europeans for their own ends will never bring about closer co-operation.

"EUROPEANS ONLY"

Mr. H. J. Bekker, speaking in the House of Assembly recently said that the segregation of non-Europeans was an absolute necessity. "The question," he said, "is being asked whether or not we propose to apply the principle of equal rights. Even non-Europeans are not in favour of equality—who is opposed to separation? No one. I do not believe that the non-Europeans expect to be treated as Europeans." The Bantu World

If Mr. Bekker does not know that the whole of the non-European community is strongly opposed to segregation, he must then be a stranger in South Africa. The non-Europeans, as human beings, are clamouring for equal treatment, justice, and equal opportunities. They are against the policy of "Europeans only." 4-28-45

Prosecutor Balks at Jim Crow on S. African Train

AFRO-American 6-16-45 Balto. Md.

CAPETOWN, South Africa (ANP)—Refusal of a local prosecutor to jim crow colored passengers on trains here was revealed recently in a debate on the Railways and Harbors Appropriation Bill in the House of Assembly, the case cited showing that an attempt had been made to bar four colored passengers from riding in a coach reserved for Europeans.

The colored passengers refused to obey a ticket examiner's command to leave the coach and the prosecutor to whom the matter was referred, said the Attorney General does not favor prosecution and that he, as public prosecutor, has no alternative in all future cases of the kind.

Mr. Sturrock, minister of Transport, explained that coaches must have the jim-crow signs on the doors or there could be no legal prosecution. "All you need is to see that coaches have "reserved for Europeans" on the doors, said House Parliamentarian Strydom. Further lebal probe was promised by Sturrock. 6-16-45

Missionaries and Colour Bar.

6-16-45

Mochocho nono — Missionary BaSotoland

While I do not wish to refute the arguments brought up by some of the writers in this question; yet I wish to give a scientific explanation of this problem. It does not sound well though to accuse Missionaries of this complex as if they were the only class of people who were not supposed to have it. Our topic will be clear if we start with this assumption that missionaries are human beings like all others. They are not angels, they have all the human feelings and pyschological inclinations as other people. Therefore why blame them of Colour Bar? Then we must correct the word Colour Bar. It should really be called "Racial discrimination." All people possess this. In other words it is class distinction. The whites possess it among themselves, making democration between notable classes, rich and poor classes etc. The Africans have it also among themselves. The Basuto think they are superior to Zulus and vice versa. The Indians have it also in the caste system of their country. Even animals have this feeling, you can see how a herd of cattle will drive a new or strange cow among them. The educated man thinks he is superior to an illeterate man and so on. Even in a family, some members think they are better than others It is a psychological principle of Ascendance—Submission which makes people feel themselves superior over strange people. By various ways e.g. wars and mental achievement, certain people are made to feel that after all they are not superior, thus they submit Primitive people tested their positions by fighting, so do bulls. Modern man does so by assumption, until he is shown by the despised man that after all they are equal on certain achievements. 6-16-45

We should not blame Missionaries of Racial discrimination against Africans, for all human beings have this feeling. In fact it is interesting to note that the Missionaries have this class discrimination among them. Some feel they are superior over the others, and yet they are of the some colour. A man who knows better than the next man, naturally thinks he is superior over him, and since the missionaries like all other whites knew much more than the Africans when they came here, they naturally felt themselves superior. I wish to bear the conviction that this feeling exists between whites as against the blacks. No! It exists in all animals as well as human beings of different colours as well as of similar colour.

The Europeans who lived on the borders of Mediterranean sea did not develop Colour or racial discrimination as it is apparent today. I mean they did not develop this against the black people in alarming respects, because they were always in constant communication with the North African Natives. They soon learned that the Blackman's brain is equal to that of a white man. Among the early fathers and doctors in the Catholic church, we had black men. It is a characteristic human behaviour that when a man of a different colour excels or equalises with your development or achievement in science, education etc, this racial feeling is counteracted. Even in South Africa, the Europeans who are biased against Natives, are mostly the half educated ones who cannot appreciate educational beauty in anything. The reason why you have so much Colour Bar in South Africa is because there are many ill-educated white people who have the vote. 6-16-45

If you read of the Colonial policies of Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, you will notice there was no colour prejudice with them. They even intermarried with the black races. These are on the borders of the Mediterranean sea, and experience had taught them not to despise the black man. Highly educated Europeans allow black men to dine with them at table. You may say that legislators are highly educated men some of them and should therefore have colour discrimination But you may not forget that they have brothers and sisters, who are less educationally privileged, and they must dance to their music to save their souls

Colur Bar really started with the English, Dutch and Germans who were never in contact with the black man. I am talking here of colour bar between white and black. These races I have just quoted border the North Sea. Evidently when they went out on Colonisation they met the black man for the first time, and naturally had to assume superiority as explained in the introductory remarks. With these races, the colour question became very acute.

When Sir George Grey sponsored industrial education among the Natives in South Africa, these became so good, that the poor whites saw the ascendancy of the black man in trade. Thus the Colour Bar Act was made. Today Natives are not allowed Technical education for the same fear. Some Europeans who wish to uphold white supremacy claim that the Native brain is inferior to that of a white man, and then have Intelligence Tests designed for Europeans and conducted by Europeans for Native children to prove this fallacy. They go to the extent of saying that natives are retarded four to five years as compared to Europeans, and that they cannot therefore do the same educational work. On the contrary we quote them scores of Africans who have passed their Matric in First class and those who have gained distinctions in degrees. We have many doctors, nurses, qualified teachers etc who have done well in their examinations. Note that all these examinations are conducted in a for ign language. 6-16-45

I have said this to show you that racial discrimination exists every where among all classes of people be they white, black, yellow or green. If a Missionary has colour prejudice, he is only true to type. He could not be otherwise, in any case he possesses this complex even among the other missionaries of his colour.

Our salvation as black people is not in teling the white people

that they exercise colour bar, but 'n improving ourselves educationally, industrially etc. and show the white man that we can equal or excel him on these lines. Then, and only then, shall he have respect for us and give us our due share. 6-26-45

I must in conclusion give credit to the Missionaries, who have strived very hard against this inborn feelings, to come to this country to educate us and civilise as well as Christianise us. What we are as black men is due to the Missionaries. We should excuse them for these minor human failings, for after all they have given to us greater things than colour bar, and that is the vision that colour bar can be stretched too far, and that as long as we think about it, we shall develop in ourselves that "Inferiority Complex" which is a curse of all nations. Let us improve ourselves in all respects.

R J Malinga.

University College,
Roma.

Hello Nwafor Orizu!

HELLO NWAFOR Orizu. Welcome back home. In spite of what Americans may say about the US being God's own country, we are glad that you have not forgotten the Dark Continent, her troubles, her desires and conditions. The very fact that you have succeeded through your council in acquiring 150 scholarships for your comrades of the coast, is a true vindication of the philosophy embodied in your book "Without Bitterness."

Had you gone to America with hate burning in your heart, this achievement would not have come to pass. Are you listening Nwafor? We firmly believe that it was that outlook that you developed in the US that enabled the Yankee to understand us and sympathise with our ambitions and struggles for a better place under the African sun. Nigerian Spokesman

In the Pittsburgh Courier, your Africa Speaks column has endeavoured to educate the American mind as to the truth about the African. We sincerely believe that it is your attitude and your dynamic personality that has forced both black and white Americans to regard you as "a great guy." Indeed, we too realise that no nation can exist independently, without extending a goodwill policy towards others. Onitsha

Carry on Orizu. You have proved to the American people that the African is a gentleman and responds to gentlemanly treatment. You have justified the faith of those who believed in you. Our only regret is that Chief Ulasi is not present to share your shining hour. But we are happy in the knowledge that somewhere beyond the blue horizon; he is content in the realisation that you have kept the faith and that his endeavours have not been in vain. 11-30-45

Economic Discrimination Responsible For Crime

Bantu World
Johannesburgh, S.A.

—Says Dr. Xuma

The economic and social discrimination to which the African was subject had a direct bearing on crime, said Dr. A. B. Xuma in his presidential address to the African National Congress in Bloemfontein.

"No country can expect to be free from crime when it spends proportionally such a small amount on the education of one section of its children as South Africa does. When 60 to 65 per cent. of African children of school-going age in the towns are unable to go to school through lack of accommodation, it must be clear that they are merely being qualified to become juvenile delinquents and later gaolbirds—simply because society has neglected them and does not try to discipline them or create a social environment conducive to happy useful citizenship.

"When people are denied economic freedom through industrial legislation they inevitably become poverty-stricken and starved. Such is the case with Africans who resort to crime. 12-22-45

"While we Africans condemn crime, and believe we must do all in our power to root out criminal tendencies in our people, we deplore the attitude of the Government towards crime in South Africa."

The fact that Africans were subjected to the restrictions of the pass laws which were not imposed on Europeans proved that those laws did not prevent crime, but were instruments of oppression.

The Government was party to making criminals out of Africans; of those who went to gaol, less than 5 per cent, did so for serious crimes. The remaining 95 per cent. were convicted for statutory offences, such as contravention of the pass laws, The Masters' and Servants' Act, the Native Urban Areas Act, the Native Labour Regulations and so on.

HIGHER STANDARDS

"The problem of race and colour relations in South Africa can never be solved until the African takes an active part in the Government of the country. Nothing but direct representation will satisfy the political aspirations of the African."

South Africa, an older country, with a larger African population was given a lead in the matter of direct political representation by such countries as Kenya.

Discussing starvation in the reserves, Dr. Xuma said that land was not yielding enough for the population and was denuded and eroded not through over-stocking but through over-population. Government rehabilitation schemes could not possibly succeed unless more land was made available to Africans.

TRADE UNIONS

He also urged recognition of African trade unions under the Industrial Conciliation Act. The suggestion mooted in 1942 for a liaison officer to act between African trade unions and the Labour Department was not enough. "We want all or nothing. We must either function as a body of workers and express ourselves as such, or not at all." 12-22-45

"We cannot succeed as a race if we continue to allow others to reap the rewards of our earnings and if we continue to remain delivery boys while the country acknowledges us to be the biggest cash customers in South Africa.

"First, we must concentrate on co-operatives. While we do this we must save our money as we can and educate our children as best we can.

MENTAL EQUIPMENT

"They will thus be able to face the problems of race relations in South Africa as a whole with better mental equipment, and will be able to play a fuller part and make a greater contribution to their South Africa.

"Congress will continue to criticise the Government of the country where it pursues an undemocratic policy. The function of the State is not to cater for the interests of one section only of population. It must govern for the benefit of all and particularly for that section which is least able to help itself."—Sapa.

Says Condition of Natives In Sonth Africa Intolerable

KIMBERLEY, So. Africa—(ANP)—It has just been possible to report upon proceedings of the 32nd annual conference of the African National congress held 3 months ago. Sixty delegates attended, were officially welcomed by the mayor and the bishop of Kimberley.

Dr. A. B. Xuma, the leading physician of South Africa, a product educationally of ,America Austrian and Scottish schools, is president of the congress. In his outspoken presidential address he said:

"The African people are passing through a trying time. They are gasping and grasping for freedom and liberty, which seems to recede. As victory is being won on the battlefields by the allied nations it is being lost in South Africa.

"The position regarding the restriction of land is so bad that outside the native scheduled areas and the locations, the only piece of ground an African native can buy without the governor-general's consent is a plot for a grave.

"There is no over stocking. Eight million Africans own fewer cattle than two million Europenas.

Dr. Xuma emphasized the supreme importance of the anti-pass campaign. A petition is to be presented to parliament so that natives will not be required to carry passes wherever they go.

Referring to the race riots in Johannesburg, Dr. Xuma asked why only blacks were arrested and why the people who said "let the Banta World burn" (the Banta World is a prominent native newspaper) were not arrested.

W. E. B. DuBois

South Africa Looks Ahead

IT HAS JUST come to my attention that there is an African National Congress in South Africa and that it held an important meeting in December, 1943. This illustrates how little we know of activities in Africa and how hard it is to get news.



No mention so far as I know was made of this meeting by cable or newspaper press. I first heard of it through a pamphlet which came by mail to Anson Phelps-Stokes and which he has kindly loaned me. It is entitled, "Africans' Claims in South Africa," and is the second pamphlet of the Congress series.

It contains findings unanimously adopted at the Annual Conference of the African National Congress at Bloemfontein December 16, 1943. It says that the Prime Minister will represent the interests of the Union of South Africa at the Peace Conference but "we want the Government and the people of South Africa to know the full aspirations of the African peoples so that their point of view will also be presented at the Peace conference. We want the Government of the United Nations to know and act in the light of our own interpretation of the 'Atlantic Charter' to which they are signatories.

"This is our way of conveying to them our undisputed claim to full citizenship. We desire them to realize once and for all that a just and permanent peace will be possible only if the claims of all classes, colors and races for sharing and for full participation in the educational, political and economic activities are granted and recognized."

Wide Support

THIS DECLARATION is signed by A. B. Xuma, president-general of the African National Congress and also by 27 members of the committee: physicians, lawyers, teachers, civil servants, merchants, clergymen and editors. Dr. Xuma himself received the degree in Science and Medicine in the United States, and degrees in Surgery at Edinburgh and Glasgow and in Public Health in London.

The statement declares:

"Already according to press reports there seems to be differences of opinion as to the applicability of the 'Atlantic Charter' as between the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of Great Britain. It would appear that President F. D. Roosevelt wanted the Atlantic Charter to apply to the whole world while the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, understood it to be intended for the white people in the occupied countries in Europe.

Evils Cited

"In South Africa, Africans have no freedom of movement, no freedom of choice of employment, no right of choice of residence and no right of freedom to purchase land or fixed property from anyone and anywhere. Under the guise of segregation, they are subjected to serious educational, political and economic disabilities and discriminations which are the chief causes of their apparent slow progress.

"We urge that if fascism and fascist tendencies are to be uprooted from the face of the earth, and to open the way for peace, prosperity and racial good-will, the 'Atlantic Charter' must apply to the whole British Empire, the United States of America and to all the nations of the world and their subject peoples. And we urge that South Africa as a prelude to her participation at the Peace Conference in the final destruction of Nazism and Fascism in Europe, must grant the just claims of her non-European peoples to freedom, democracy and human decency...."

lf-1945

Gold Coast

Too Many Languages on The Loose, Tubbs Says

AFRO-AMERICAN

F-6-45

By VINCENT TUBBS

(AFRO Correspondent with NNPA Commission)

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone. — (Via Air Mail)—Too many languages are on the loose in the world today. Within the last six months I have had to twist my vocal chords over no less than ten of them. Covering the war in the Pacific, I needed a working knowledge four languages —pidgin-English as spoken by the natives of New Guinea and the Solomon Islands; English as spoken by the Australians; Javanese and French.



Vincent Tubbs

En route home, it was necessary to master a few key phrases in Hawaiian and even at home one had to get on to all the new "hep cat" talk.

Balt., Md.

Accent Changed

But here in West Africa, my linguistic proclivities are being taxed to the utmost.

Visiting the Gold Coast recently. I had to readapt the acquired Australian-English accent to the British-English accent—this, of course when talking to European officials.

Then came the task of making oneself understood to the native people and catching at least a few words of their answers. It was here that I first tangled with the hundreds of African languages and dialects.

With the kind assistance of N. F. Riberio-Ayeh, half Portugese and half African member of the Twi tribe, I learned such key statements as "I am hungry" which is spoken like "Akom-day meh" and "hello" which is expressed "heh."

Never Used It

This bit of instruction left me armed with no less than fifty phrases but I never had an opportunity to use them because once we had traveled twenty miles, the people spoke another lauguage. Dagomba, and I was back in the primer again.

Net result was that in the Gold Coast I did an excellent job of confusing the Africans to whom I spoke for I threw at them a conglomeration of Hausa, Twi, Ga, Dagomba and Akan.

I had learned a little of each and oftimes when speaking to one who speaks Twi I could answer him only in Ga. Take it from me, it was a mess.

However, coming to Sierra Leone recently I thought the trouble would be temporarily ended because Freetown is made up of Africans who have been in touch with Western civilization for over 100 years and many of them are well educated.

It was felt that here, at least, the man in the streets could be interviewed without unnecessary stretching of the vocal chords, but not so.

Although government employees and great numbers of professional folk here speak excellent English with a noticeable Oxford accent, the average man speaks a thing called "patois."

I was sitting poring over a book and some notes which I was transcribing to a diary. A servant who had seen me at these tasks often shook his head in disgust and said something that sounded like "Ooo-do-wuss-toomuss."

After thirty minutes of strenuous cross-examination I learned that he had said: "You do work too much."

Our next stop is Liberia where we hope the man in the streets speaks unadulterated English, but we shall soon have to move on to Nigeria where we will encounter another vast number of African languages and dialects.

Having been declared interpreter for this commission, I will probably be an expert linguist or stark, raving mad by the time we return to the States.

Tubbs Describes Life in a "Bush Country" Village

Balt., Md.

AFRO-American

F-6-45

Homes of Mud; Market Center of Activity; Town Has Trade School, Modern Water Works

By VINCENT TUBBS

(AFRO Representative with NNPA African Commission)

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TAMALE, GOLD COAST—(Via Air Mail)—This is the last northern outpost of Western civilization in the Gold Coast and headquarters of administration for the Northern Territories which is the largest and most densely populated divisional area in the colony.

This is the "bush country" where, although we've not yet had the experience, you may expect to see lions and leopards, puff-adder, black mamba and horned viper snakes. Good-sized frogs hop around in some of the houses and lizards scurry everywhere, but they are almost ignored.

There is talk of the malaria-bearing mosquito here and the tsetse fly that bears sleeping sickness. Both are scourges of the people who populate this sector — nearly two million tortured souls.

Vultures in Marketplace

Life in Tamale, like that in every other African village, centers around the marketplace through which your correspondent strolled in an effort to feel the local pulse. My own pulse could have stood a feeling when I glanced skyward and saw turkey-sized vultures sitting atop alternate thatch-covered stalls.

But the marketplace had other and equally distracting attractions. Near one group of gibbering women whose wares included tomatoes, dried fish, soap, plaintain, cassava and ground nuts there stood a completely nude woman.

Nearby there lay a man in filthy rags fast asleep in the final throes of sleeping sickness. Little boys tripped around naked and a few more modest little girls wore "G strings."

European Goods Sold

Meat stalls, where there were freshly killed chickens and goats, literally crawled with swarms of flies, but the vendors did not seem to mind. When they cast aside entrails, the vultures screamed down from their perches and engaged in a thoroughly good brawl.

All of the traders pay a fee of a penny for a six-day license to sell in the market and a surprising amount of their goods is European stuff—perfumes, beads, talcum powder, hair ointment, etc.

Beauty Shops in Market

There are beauty parlors and barber shops in the market where the women can get their hair combed or cut and most of them wear it about an inch long or tuck it under cloths that look like bandannas. In the barber shops, the men get their heads shaved.

In most of the stalls the wares are typically African—dried fish, bamboo weavings, pottery, Manchester cloths, vegetables or cooked paddies of cassava.

Incidentally, if I've not explained it before, cassava is the basic food in Africa and is nothing more than the roots of a plant that looks a lot like a big Irish potato. It has no discernible taste but is extremely popular.

At many spots in the marketplace women stay busy throughout the day working with large sticks and pots made from tree trunks (like a pestle and mortar), pounding the cassava into edible softness.

Houses Made of Mud

Everywhere everyone seems busy, except the man with the sleeping sickness.

Elsewhere in the town, the houses in which the people live are revoltingly filthy, there is hardly any ventilation and large numbers of the structures are falling apart. Walls are made from mud; the rainy season has just ended and a lot of the houses were literally washed away.

The houses that survived the rainy season hereabouts are circular mud huts covered with thatched roofs and are joined together by fences of mud or bamboo.

They make a sort of compound and the explanation is that the father builds the first house and each son adds another and a fence as he marries. Villages are made up of dozens of such compounds.

Trade School

In other parts of the settlement there are other things to see. There is a government trade and teacher-training school where the African teachers wear smock-like white gowns and are barefooted. The pupils are learning carpentry, masonry, weaving and ironsmithing.

There is also the government water works. The water shortage is one of the greatest problems of the Territories. The reservoir is filled solely by what falls out of the sky. It is full this year for the first time in six years, and there are crocodiles in it.

Modern Water-Works

The crocodiles are allowed to stay in the reservoir because they keep other undesirable varmints out. The massive purification plant is as modern as that in your own city and it was brought here largely by head portage from the coast over 350 miles distant.

There is also the school for sanitary inspectors whose job it will be to attempt to raise the standard of sanitation in villages less touched by civilization than this. There are eight enrollees

No Breeze in Afternoon

The weather here is far from pleasant. In the early mornings it is cool enough for a blanket but by noon the thermometer hovers in the upper nineties and has been known to soar to 110 degrees. No breeze stirs during the afternoon hours and the siesta (2 till 4 p.m.) is very popular.

A few miles north, elephants roam in herds and the latest story of wild animals is that a wayfaring woman was eaten by a lion recently on the road to Yendi, an outlying vilage that we are to visit.

lf-1945

Housing- Africa

D.C. Architect to Design Buildings for Liberia

MONROVIA. (ANP)—Buildings in which Liberia plans to hold its centennial celebration after the war will be designed by Hilyard R. Robinson, Washington, D.C., architect, it was revealed during Mr. Robinson's recent visit here.

The buildings will include housing to accommodate the 3,000 families from the U.S. expected to visit Liberia during that period. Negotiations with Mr. Robinson were begun during former President Barclay's visit to America.

lf-1945

Liberia

Health Mission in Liberia Expands Work of Hospital

AFRO-American Md. Balt., Md. 7-14-45

MONROVIA, Liberia — Under the United States Public Health Mission in Liberia, many innovations have been added to the Liberian Government Hospital here, chief of which is a school of nursing which was opened recently with ten Liberian students.

Although there is a Bureau of Public Health and Sanitation, headed by Dr. Leo Sajous, a Haitian, the internal administration of the hospital, by order of President Tubman, is vested in the mission director, Lt. Col. John B. West of Washington.

Requested by Colonel West to relieve the serious nurse shortage, the school is in charge of Maj. Charles I. West, the colonel's brother, and is directed by Miss E. Vashti Hall, assistant chief of nursing education.

To Train 10 Each Year

The present plan is to take each year, ten students representing all sections of the country and train them for three years. Courses are offered by all members of the commission. The students are expected to return to their sections.

To provide adequate water, workers under Granville Woodson of Philadelphia, engineer with the mission, have set up four emergency storage tanks which will hold 97,000 gallons of water after it has been filtered and chlorinated. 7-14-45

Also undergoing development, is the dental clinic supervised by Dr. (Major) Louis R. Middleton of New York, former assistant chief of dental service of the District Department of Health of New York City.

Equipment Provided

In addition, the operating section of the hospital has been moved and now consists of three rooms with high-powered lights. A new sterilizer has also been ordered by the Liberian Government. 7-14-45

The dietician with the mission is Lt. Virginia Ford of Toledo, Ohio, a graduate nurse and former U.S. Public Health Service employee, who is now acting director of public nursing.

Assigned the job of publishing the mission's work, is the sixth member of the group, Lt. Alma Jackson of Richmond, director of health education, who has already instituted a health column in the country's newspapers.

U.S. Begins Work on Deep Water Harbor for Liberia

Afro-American, Baltimore, Md. 10-27-45

WASHINGTON

The United States Government has begun construction of a port and port works in Liberia under agreements made between the two governments March 31, 1944.

The project, costing $12,000,000, will be located on the large Bushrob Island near Monrovia, across the mouth of the Mesurdo River and the Delta of the St. Paul.

Raymond Concrete Power Co., of New York, is doing the job under contract with Navy supervision. Capt. Edgar B. Carey is naval officer in charge.

Many Liberians Hired

Those employed on the job are white civilians and a "relatively large" number of Liberians.

The contract calls for building of a deep seaport suitable for docking of commercial ocean-going vessels, and a 2,000-foot dock.

Behind the dock will be constructed three warehouses, administration building, a power house, fuel oil storage facilities and a water supply system.

An access road, including a bridge across the Mesurado Road, on which work is now under way, will be provided, extending from Monrovia to the port.

Modern Improvements

At nearby Camp Johnson, which houses Navy personnel and white American workers, a small city has sprung up overnight.

Replacing the thatched houses formerly used by enlisted men of the Liberian Frontier Force are modern homes, an electric laundry run by the natives, a modern hospital, a large machine shop, refrigeration setup and power plant.

Construction work, delayed by the slow arrival of materials, is expected to speed up now that the war is over.

Apl 1945 Nigeria- Discrimination

African Committee In London Arouses British Conscience On The Berry Case

WEST AFRICAN PILOT - LAGOS

4-19-45

LONDON.— On May 1, 1945, Philip Berry, Negro, Nigerian, and seaman, will be executed at Pentonville, because he was accused, and found guilty, of murdering a Dutch white man who had insulted his race.

The circumstances surrounding the tragedy leading to the execution of Berry are indeed lamentable and the Committee for Defence of Peoples of African Descent, under the auspices of the African Progressive Association, has started to arouse the conscience of Britons in this respect.

The committee has appealed to all who are interested in fostering healthy inter-racial relation to join it in petitioning the Home Secretary for a reprieve.

4-19-45

The Chairman of the A. P. A. is Mr K. O Larbi, Barrister-at-Law, and the Secretary is Mr F. O. B. Blaize, Barrister-at Law.

Messrs R. O'Sullivan, K.C., and K. O. Larbi represented Berry at the Court of Criminal Appeals and submitted the following seven grounds for the appeal, which was dismissed by their lordships, and the conviction of the lower court was confirmed:

1. That the learned judge misdirected the jury by directing them that there was no evidence by which they could find a verdict of manslaughter.

2. That the learned judge misdirected the jury by omitting to direct them that if they found on the evidence that the appellant was in Euston Road at the time and place when the deceased met his death they ought to consider whether any shots that the appellant may have fired may have been provoked by insults and aggressive action on the part of the deceased or otherwise in circumstances reducing the case to one of manslaughter.

3. The learned judge was wrong in law and misdirected the jury by directing them that they ought to accept the evidence of Sergeant Stoneham because it would be a gross offence for him as a Police Officer to give evidence which was inaccurate and false.

4-19-45

4. That the learned judge was wrong in law and misdirected the jury by failing to direct them that they ought to accept the evidence of the witnesses for the defence because it would be a grave offence for any of these witnesses to give evidence which was inaccurate or false.

5. That the learned judge failed to direct the jury as to the conflict of evidence as to the statement alleged to have been made by the appellant to Sergeant Stoneham and failed to direct the jury that unless they were satisfied that the statement alleged to have been made to Sergeant Stoneham was made without interrogation by the last named and, in accordance with the Judge's Rules, they ought to disregard the alleged statement.

6. That the learned judge failed sufficiently or at all to direct the jury on the volume and weight of evidence given by the witnesses for the defence or to put the defence before the jury.

7. That the verdict of the jury was against the weight of evidence.

London West Indians & Africans Seek Protection Against White Mob Rule

Appeal Forwarded To Colonel Stanley

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON. — Coloured West Indians and Africans in London have sent an appeal to Colonel Oliver Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies, urging him to protect them against white mob-rule.

On behalf of the colonial seamen who have been helping to bring food and other supplies of war to this country, Mr George Browne, of Trinidad, has sent the following letter to the Colonial Office officials, copies of which have now being released to the British press and foreign correspondents in London.

"I am appealing to you, as Colonial Secretary, to investigate an outrage that was committed against a number of British subjects, including myself, on the night of February 9, 1945, by certain members of the Metropolitan Police Force," writes Mr Browne.

"We were so humiliated by the actions of the policemen that I found it necessary to put the matter forward to the higher authorities.

"Nearly a dozen British subjects, including seamen and students, were hurled into the police van for no reason whatever, while a crowd of irresponsible people cheered and shouted such insulting remarks as 'black bastards' and 'dirty niggers.'"

Mr Browne goes on to assert that "Many law-abiding Negroes had to walk home because they were detained unnecessarily by the police.

"The trouble started when an American and an R.A.F. officer attacked two Negroes who were leaving the Caribbean Club.

"A crowd then gathered and some more Americans joined in and started beating up the two Negroes.

"When they (the Negroes) saw that the odds were against them they ran back up stairs to get away from their aggressors.

"By this time the club was closing and other people were leaving.

"As we got to the bottom of the stairs we were met by a hail of flying bottles and had to run back up to the stairs.

"No one dared to go down, for the assailants were standing there with pieces of broken bottles swearing to carve up the black so-and-so's if they came down."

Mr Browne then proceeds to describe the strange action of the police: "They ignored the white people who were standing there menacing us with their weapons, but came up to ask us what's the trouble', to which someone replied — 'There's the trouble', indicating the six or eight people who were in the doorway.

"They then decided to make investigation, but as they apparently weren't interested in the people who started the trouble (they were allowed to go) we had to answer for it.

"When one Negro asked why it is that these people were allowed to leave and we weren't, the reply was that we must wait until the crowd disperse.

"We agree to that, knowing that if we did go outside then there might have been more trouble.

"But when half an hour went by and no attempt was made to disperse the crowd we all thought that it was a farce, and that the police were taking a 'liberty.'

"For it was obvious that we were being kept there at the leisure of the policemen.

"At this point a policeman looked in the doorway of the club and said 'O.K,' and those who were in the doorway started grabbing the Negroes who were in the foreground and hurled them into a van that had suddenly arrived on the scene.

"By this time the crowd in the street was going wild with joy, and as each Negro was hurled in the van they cheered and shouted or swore, to the elation of the gallant police.

"It wasn't until about midnight that the rest of us, who were unable to get into the van, through no fault of the gallant police, were informed that we may go.

White Settlers In South Africa Threaten To Suppress Agitative Negro Citizens

Say Blackmen Are Becoming Insolent

By GEORGE PADMORE, Our London Correspondent

LONDON.—European settlers in southern Africa, especially in the Union and Rhodesia—are anxiously looking forward to the San Francisco Conference at which Field Marshal Smuts will present certain demands for post-war control of the African colonies giving the white settlers a greater voice over the territories.

The settlers are complaining that ever since the Atlantic Charter and the Four Freedoms were announced, the Africans are losing their traditional fear and respects for the whites.

And as a result black political agitators are exploiting the grievances of the African workers in the gold mines of the Transvaal and plantation labourers in the Orange Free State.

European settlers in Southern Rhodesia are also complaining about their "natives."

Typical of the increasing hostility towards the blacks is reflected in the following statement published in the "Bulawayo Chronicle," the leading newspaper of the white mine owners and planters in that colony:

"Houseboys have in recent years become far more dirty, lazy and insolent than in former years.

"'We, Europeans, use to enjoy respectful obedience, now we get dumb insolence, neglect, the minimum of work, and at times defiance.

"One of our magistrates, in his wisdom, decreed some years ago that the use of the sidewalks in towns by "natives" was a right and not merely a privilege and the result was that this right was abused by herds of boys—insolent, noisy loiterers who obstruct the way, particularly of white women folk.

"I saw a woman telling six of them to make way for her, as they were right across the pavement and they saultered reluctantly aside and laughed rudely and impertinently at her face.....

"I have frequently heaved them off the sidewalks for obstructing and shall continue to do so, so long as I see their conduct to our women folk."

The writer goes on to say:

"I have gradually been forced to completely revise my views about humane treatment and my conclusion now is that they are in the main dirty insolent loafers.

"They are more a menace than an aid to our domestic life

"So let welfare societies concentrate on two things first: the virtue of personal hygiene and emphasis on the 'native' that his duty is to be an obedient servant of the white man, and we may in time make him appreciate the fact that only in diligent and willing acceptance of this destiny will his welfare be secured."

Africans Believe Their Culture Can Teach World Peaceful Living

Pittsburgh Courier — 12
3-10-45

By ROI OTTLEY, Special Correspondent

Africans in England call white people "Mzunga" — pronounced MA-ZON-GA. The term has approximately the same use as our "ofay." But in a subtle way it also implies certain humorous qualities which they have observed in the behavior of white people, which are underscored by broad social meaning. Many Africans are deeply religious. Indeed, religion is a part of their every-day living. It controls their every act. This makes them a highly ethical people. So, they are amused when a white man says, "Yes, this is religious—but it isn't practical." 3-10-45

Actually, the Africans are vastly concerned with the white man. The fact is, they admire the white man tremendously. With their eyes lifted to their homeland, Africans wish that they could peaceably work out a mutual relation of live-and-let-live policy.

CRITICIZE WHITE MAN

They feel, too, that he has made great technical and scientific advances which could be beneficial to African civilization. But they do not go overboard in this. For they feel African culture has much to teach the world about the art of living cooperatively and peacefully. 3-10-45

There is much criticism of the white man among Africans—particularly Englishmen. Africans feel keenly about the exploitation of the riches of Africa—both human and natural—in which they do not share. But this criticism is never leveled at the white man in a heavy-handed, vicious or carping manner. The fact is, the African's manners are superb. Rarely do they use the bludgeon. Instead they are gifted with the rapier. For the Africans have a way of making subtle social criticism, which is reflective of a refined intelligence.

I learned this fact dramatically—though I had already seen it demonstrated in more ways than one. One day while in London, I went to see a collection of "primitive" African art. Incidentaly, African art has had profound influence upon modern French artists. Even distinguished American sculptors like Epstein have been influenced by the African's conceptions of form.

ART EXPRESSES IMPERIALISM 3-10-45

Anyway, I was struck by the fact that most of the African artists represented had carved pieces of white men seated in chairs! This indeed seemed to be the characteristic theme.

I asked an informed African what he thought the artists had in mind. He explained the social background that had dominated the artist's thinking and experience, which ran like this: 3-10-45

In Africa, the white man is by and large an overseer or colonial administrator. He does little of the hard and laborious work under tropical sun. The extent of his activity is relaxing in a comfortable chair on his veranda, sipping whiskey and sodas, while he watches sweating blacks toil on the vast expanses of his plantation.

The African was obviously moved by this unfair equation. Hence a statue of a white man in a chair! Here is a tremendous conception. For here was one of the most penetrating criticisms of imperialism I had seen abroad. Moreover, here was the African mind speaking out, not alone militantly, but artistically. 3-10-45

WALTER WHITE INCIDENT

Not every African artist spoke in tones of thunder. Some were brilliantly whimsical. One artist represented in this collection portrayed a white man bearing an umbrella!

One wondered whether the artist was making a shrewd comment on the English mentality—the sort of mentality that can produce the Munich of the umbrella-toting Chamberlain. Or, maybe he was merely using the umbrella as a symbol of the privileged class to which the white man in Africa belongs. For the umbrella is a sign of royal caste in Africa. In any case, he was offering a social comment.

This attitude toward a white skin may explain a curious incident which occurred when Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP, was visiting London. He was scheduled to address the African Students Union. When he rose to speak, an audible whispering pervaded the gathering.

"Who is this white man?" they asked, somewhat bewildered. They had obviously heard he was a Negro leader in America. They presumed a Negro leader was black.

"He is the blackest white man in America," George Padmore, well-known journalist and resident of London, assured them.

They relaxed. But the reason, perhaps, for their apparent alarm is the fact that the English often make distinctions between mulattoes and blacks. While, in theory, the English look down on the light-complexioned Negroes as "half-castes"—which is a term of opprobium—they nevertheless allow them more freedom because of their ability to fade into the population. They are frequently referred to as "Europeans." 3-10-45

This development, in some instances, has driven a wedge between the blacks and the light-complexioned Negroes, which today causes the Africans to question the motives of all mulattoes. But Walter White's long career of fighting for Negro rights saved the day. For the African's admiration of the American Negro is tremendous.

Riot Flares in South Africa

People's Voice
4-7-45

JOHANNESBURG, S. Africa (ANP)—More than 100 people are reported to have been injured here during the recent riot between native Africans and Europeans while full details on the clash of Indians and Europeans in Natal Province are still undisclosed.

Police charge that the natives were led by African nationalist leaders. Eighteen, including a woman, have already been arrested. They will be charged with violating the riotous assemblies act, which makes it a criminal offense for more than five Africans to assemble without special police permit.

N.Y., N.Y.

An effort is also being made to apprehend fascist leaders, police disclosed. The white fascists belong to the greyshirt "Christian National South African Republican party," headed by Dr. Malap, a Lutheran preacher. Dr. Malap plans to organize a fascist regime here, reports reveal.

4-7-45

Police officers are reported to be tracing members of Dr. Malap's fascist organization who set fire to the offices of the *Bantu World*, the largest African newspaper in South Africa. The newspaper's offices were destroyed by a white mob. The property damage caused by the riot is estimated to exceed $200,000.

Racial clashes between the Indians, living in Natal Province of South Africa, and Europeans have brought them under jimcro laws. The Natal Provincial Council recently passed a law barring Indians from owning or occupying houses and business premises in Durban, the capital of Natal.

Flogging Of African Soldiers

WE remember that, some time ago, when first the unpleasant news leaked out that our fighting kith and kin were being subjected to the barbarous punitive measure of flogging, there was an outburst of indignation from all sections of the Nigerian press against it. We vividly recall to mind the strange logic the then Minister of War, Sir James Grigg, advanced in the House of Commons in a vain attempt to justify this uncalled for and discriminatory practice.

Well, according to latest reports reaching this office, it would appear that, in spite of a promise given to go into the matter, by calling for details from the various commands, the whole question remains, so far, unsettled.

What we simply cannot understand are some of the reasons adduced in favour of such an uncivilised form of corporal punisl ment. Whereas some argue that such corporal punishments "improved the morale of the African troops," the most stupid statement we have ever come across, others — perhaps the most enterprising of the lot — advance the equally stupid and unscientific reason that "the African troops preferred a corporal punishment to any other form."

If European soldiers could be considered above flogging, why should African troops be subjected to it? The African is no brute to be flogged. The present generation of Africans is not that docile donkey of old to be treated thus. If it is agreed that soldiers — no matter their colour or creed — undergo identical hardships on the battlefield or elsewhere, if we praise them with our hearts and not with our lips, then justice demands that they should be treated equally fairly.

[Facts About Africa

Philadelphia Tribune—Pa.

By P. BERNARD YOUNG, JR.
(Journal and Guide Editor curing Africa with NNPA Commission)

2-10-45

BRAZZAVILLE (Via Radio) – Concluding an extensive, officially sponsored and guided toud of French Equatorial Africa, members of the NNPA African Mission have noted the following factual findings.

There are 28,000 students in elementary, trade, high and normal schools of the colony, half of them in mission schools. 2-10-45

No tuition is charged and books are free, as well as clothes if needed, in government schools.

Wages paid to common labor here range from ten to twenty cents per day. Government clerks and teachers average thirty dollars per month, plus free quarters.

Skilled workers such as railway machinists and engineers average a maximum, after twenty-five years of service, of $36.00 monthly. A railway shop foreman earns $41.00 monthly.

However, a 40 percent general raise in these wages was authorized last month.

This dispatch is being written during a flight a mile and a half above virgin jungles and high mountains in a Lockheed Lodestar enroute to a port of embarkation for our westward trans-atlantic hop. 2-10-45

In general French Equatorial Africans are less advanced, less healthy, less well-housed, and less vocal on their aspirations, there being six French but no African newspapers.

Last year 38 Africans passed the stiff tests for French citizenship while 45 to 50 failed. The chief barrier is a requirement for "means and manners" of continental Frenchmen.

Eboue proposed and the government is continuing the creation of African colonial citizenry called "notables evolues." 2-10-45

The ultimate purpose, officially stated, is the development of the masses for eventual administration of French Equatorial Africa by indigenous population.

Eboue is universally venerated as the hero of a critical period and for keeping open the supply line via Chad (a northern province) and for sweeping social and economic reforms more greatly benefiting the people here.

◆

BRAZZAVILLE (Via Radio)—Here are some sidelights on the tour of French Equatorial Africa by Vincent T. Tubbs of the Afro-American and the writer, members of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association African Mission: 2-10-45

Ten bananas in an up-country village cost two cents.

Manioc, or Tapioca roots, the staple food in the colony, costs ten centimes, or 1-10 of a penny.

French Equatorial African villages are better planned towns and cleaner, though still mud and thatch constructed, than those elsewhere visited by the commissioners.

We have just completed in eighty minutes by plane a hop that takes sixteen hours by train.

Thus we climax our emergency war mission carrying the commission, to from, and in Africa a distance greater than once around the world. We will have crossed the equator six times, the Atlantic Ocean, Amazon river, and Caribbean sea twice, and spanned South America a couple of times since last October, thanks to modern aviation.

Members of the NNPA Commission have used five types of aircraft flown by pilots of four nations.

African Labourer Is Beaten By White Boss

Another beating incident took place in one of the locomotive workshops of the Nigerian Railway yesterday, October 1, when Mr F G W Porter, Senior Storekeeper, was alleged to have rough handled one Samuel, a labourer of the same establishment.

According to reports, a quarrel ensued between the European boss and the African labourer over a piece of job and, having been enraged, the European master attempted to get satisfaction by giving the labourer a slap. 10-2-45

Samuel, it is reported, stood watching his boss with arms folded, and, not satisfied with his first blow, the European boss was alleged to have given the labourer a kick which sent him swooning to the floor.

Attempt to revive the unfortunate labourer having failed, he was conveyed away for treatment somewhere else.

At the time of writing, the precise condition of Samuel is not known.

South Africa Where Coloured Men Are Cattle

4-16-45 Public Opinion

They Say The Negro Has No Soul

4-16-45

The Herren Volk That The Allies Accept

Public Opinion

OUTSIDE Nazi Germany there is probably no community so race conscious as the "Europeans" of the Union of South Africa. Only by an accident is the South African Union fighting against Fascism abroad. At home the white South Africans have spent the war years agitating for more and more repressive measures against the non-Europeans living within their borders.

4-16-45

Even while South African and Indian solders were fighting side by side to push Rommel out of North Africa, the South African Legislature passed the notorious Pegging Act (1943) which for the first time, put on the Statute Book what had in fact been a social reality for many years—namely, the segregation of the Indian citizens of Natal from their white neighbours. Under the Pegging Act no property could be bought or occupied by an Indian in Durban without a special permit.

4-16-45

But the Pegging Act only brought to a head an agitation which has been a part of South African politics since the days of the Boer War. The original colonisers of South Africa were the Dutch whose descendants are now known as Boers The Boers never recognised the principle of equality of white and colour either within the legislatuse or in social status. Under President Kruger both African and Indian in South African suffered acutely from racial discrimination, and this treatment of Indians was made one of the excuses for Britain's participation in the Boer War. The Indian was eprived of the Parliamentary franchise in 1896 and has never been permitted to vote since (with the exception of a small minorityin Cape Town). The Municipal franchise was taken away in 1924.

Africa, where Africans have no Vote

4-16-45

Thus an Indian, or an African, of South Africa may possess a South African passport, but he will have no opportunity to vote either in his town or Province or Central election, will be discriminated against in business, trade unions, education and in a thousand and one social matters. For instance, if a white man and an Indian go together to visit a white firm in Durban, the white man may enter by the main door but the Indian will have to take the back stairs of the servants' lift. If they go out to eat together, they will have to avoid restaurants serving only Europeans. In the trams and buses, Indians must only travel on the outside; in cinemas they must sit in reserved places; on bathing beaches they must not *penetrate* on to stretches of sea and sand where the white man takes his pleasure, and so on.

They Say he has No Soul

The countless petty humiliations heaped upon Indians of whatever class in South Africa is strongly reminiscent of anti-Semitic Germany. Naturally the real Africans, being less organised and less articulate for the most part, are treated even worse. A South African white told me the other day there are Boers living out on the veldt who still firmly believe the African has no soul and is something between an animal and a man.

Essentially the problems of the African and the Indian are one in South Africa—the only difference being that the Indians are for the most part traders and craftsmen, while the Africans are peasants, unskilled labourers and domestic workers. Moreover, the Indians, having no means of legislative redress, constantly appeal to their original homeland—India. In the last two years the Indian people have protested violently against the treatment of the South African Indians and stormy scense have occurred in the Delhi Legislature. Time and again, the demand has been made for economic sanctions to be applied by the Government of India against the Union of South Africa, but so far the Viceroy has been unable to get consent for this action from Whitehall.

How India's Dependent Position Makes Her Impotent

Thus India's dependent position within the British Empire makes the position of the South African Indians a thousand times worse. The South African white men know they can do more or less anything they like without fear of reprisals since Genrral Smuts can always persuade Prime Minister Churchill that measures such as the Pegging Act are necessary for the maintenance of the pro-Allied Government in the Union. For it must be remembered that General Smuts only manages to hold South Africa in the war by means of his pro-British Dominion Party backing and by constant concessions to the demands of the big anti-British parties of Dr. Malan, who wants South Africa to secede from the British Commonwealth and to pursue a policy of "South Africa for the white South Africans."

Centre of the anti-Indian agitation is the City of Durban, where Indians number 90,000 as compared with 100,000 Europeans (Yet this was the City General Smuts declared "had been and would remain a European City.") Indians have been in the Unions as long as the Boers and the British, though by far the great majority of Indians went originally as indentured labourers. The standard of life among the Indian community is higher in South Africa than in India—partly because of the settlement reached at a Round Table conference in Cape Town in 1927, whereby it was agreed the South African Indians who adopted Western standards of life should have equal opportunities and status with Europeans. But the Pegging Act and other anti-race measures in the Union have shattered the Cape Town agreement to pieces. The present determined object of the South African white population is to get the Indians out of the Union and to keep the Africans as a permanent labouring and menial class.

How India's Interests Coincide with Africa's

These fascist policies must be rooted out. The South African Indians and Africans must from now on receive the backing of Socialist movement all over the world. The question of their treatment must be brought up for immediate discussion, both at the Commonwealth Relations Conference and at the Peace Conference. But the first and most important step in bringing powerful assistance to these millions of dispossessed people in Africa is the liberation of India. With a free independent national Government at New Delhi throwing its full weight, both politically and economically into the struggle for the freedom of Indians and Africans in the Union, the whole position of the Indians abroad and of the Africans' freedom sfruggle woulb undergo an immediate change.

The liberation of India would mean the addition of 400,000,000 anti-imperialists to the anti-imperialist front. And the South African Government, consisting of a small minority, would be faced for the first time with an *Asiatic* power prepared to support the freedom struggles of both Asiatics and Africans within the Union.

It is our duty to give all the support we can to Indians and Africans alike in their claim for equality in South Africa.

Social Conditions- Liberia

"Woman P'lava" Cause of Crimes in Liberia

AFRO-American Bltr. Md. 2-24-45

BY VINCENT TUBBS
(NNPA Correspondent)

MONROVIA, Liberia—(Via Air Mail)—Liberia's principal crimes stem from a thing called "woman p'lava" and just now, like all other parts of the world affected by a soldier population the city of Monrovia is having its troubles with the ladies of the evening.



Mr. Tubbs

P'lava is simply the African way of saying trouble and it almost invariably results in some crime of violence or court litigation wherein the offended husband seeks damages for violation of his property.

2-24-45

A peculiar thing, though, is the time thate elapses between commission of a crime such as murder, and apprehension, trial, conviction and execution. One such case is that of a man named Greenwood who stabbed his wife to death in 1939 and was executed at a public hanging in 1944.

Guard With a Whip

Another peculiar thing is that whenever you see prisoners moving along the streets en route to some simple task like sweeping up a department building or moving some debris, the guard usually has a long whip in his hand. It has been revealed that Liberian law provides for lashes for commission of certain petty crimes.

An official declares, however, that the Tubman administration has special plans for reorganizing the police force, particularly in the matter of constructing a proper prison and putting convicted persons to tasks designed to rehabilitate them rather than aggravate their criminal tendencies and the administration of justice is already looking up.

2-24-45

Convict White Man

For the first time in Liberian history a conviction has been obtained against a white man employed by Firestone Plantations which has been infamous in past years for so-called legal dodges.

The white man is alleged to have caused the death of a native worker by leaving him ill and unattended on an isolated road because the native refused medical treatment at the plantation dispensary and held out to be taken to a native witch doctor.

Attorney-General C. Aboyomi Cassell declared during an interview that Liberians have "the same ideals and desires for the protection of the liberties and privileges of all classes in the country just as is being manifested today by the men and women who are at the forefront of world affairs."

It was good to hear the attorney-general make such a statement because someone else had just revealed that 90 per cent of Liberia's police force is made up of illiterate men from the hinterlands who earn the peon's wage of $4 per month.

2-24-45

Law and order obtain only in so much as those charged with maintaining it perform their tasks conscientiously and it is hard to conceive of an illiterate earning less than 25 cents a day doing a good job of protecting people on their property.

Liberian Charity Society Proposes To Build Sanctuary For Monrovia's Poor

West African Pilot Logos

Project Estimated At 10,000 Dollars

3-29-45

By OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

MONROVIA, March 28.—The Liberia Charity Society has started a drive to raise 10,000 dollars to build a home with compound for the poor of the city.

Their first programme was held at the Cox Hall of the College of West Africa on March 8, when the principal speaker was Mr Hilyard R. Robinson.

Mrs Sarah C. George also spoke on her recent visit to America. 3-29-45

Counsellors Benjamin G. Freeman and H. Lafayette Harom lifted the collection, assisted by Mrs S. J. Clinton and Miss Marie Johnson, and the Honourable Wilkins H. Tyler, Secretary of War, was the Master of Ceremonies.

The principal speaker of the evening, Mr Hilyard R. Robinson is an American Negro who has come to Monrovia on the invitation of the Liberian Government as Technical Consultant for the Centenary Commission.

Mr Robinson was trained at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Arts, Philadelphia; University of Pennsylvania; School of Architecture, Columbia University, Berlin University, and holds the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Architecture.

He travelled and studied in Holland, Denmark, Germany, Russia, and other European countries in connection with a city planning, housing and industrial construction planning.

Some of his activities have covered the following: formerly head of the Department of Architecture for 10 years at Howard University; Senior and Consulting Architect for the United States Resettlement Administration; Chief Architect for Planning and Designing Public Housing for the United States Department of the Interior.

Some of his recent work in private practice include architect for the first public housing project in Washington built by the Federal Government; designed schools, hospitals, clinics, hotels, recreation buildings etc.

In the field of invention, he is the designer and co-owner of 13 United States patents on lighting devices including air raid blackout lights.

Some of these have been used by the federal and municipal governments in the United States.

West Africa's Expert Makes Statement On Town Planning Of Freetown City

Logos West African Pilot

Provisions Made For Slum Clearance

By H. E. B. JOHN OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

FREETOWN, April 3.—When the town planning expert in West Africa, Mr Maxwell Fry, met representatives of the local newspapers recently, he made a statement on the planning of this city.

The details of the plan which have been prepared have not yet been considered by the government of this colony, and the scale model still has to be prepared.

Provision will be made in the plan for new housing, the clearance of slum areas, the construction of new roads and the widening of many already existing, the building of a new deep water quay, the building of a new town centre with concert and dance halls, a swimming pool, and open spaces for sports and recreation.

New housing will have high priority, and this problem will even be attacked before the slums are cleared.

The next five years will probably see 10 per cent of the population of this city in new and improved types of houses.

Kossoh Town, King Tom and the Brookfields areas will be developed in connection with the new housing programme.

The hilly nature of this country presents the planner with a difficult problem here.

In spite of that, however, open spaces will be provided along the new road at Kissy and along the Lumley Road. 4-4-45

The new deep water quay will come after housing and will bring prosperity to the city.

The new government and municipal centre is expected to be situated near the present Secretariat, and a new Post Office and a new town hall — at last! — will be built.

The present government wharf will be a waterside recreational centre.

Mr Maxwell Fry has spoken from the point of view of the expert.

He has explained how he would like this city to be re-built.

People here must not carry away the thought that all the other things will be well.

Compensation and evacuation will prove troublesome.

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT
Circ. D. 47,872 - S. 80,138
SEP 21 1945

Missions Group Discusses Work Among Negroes

Missionary work with Negroes at home and abroad was discussed Thursday at the Third Annual Missions Institute of the Women's Church Union, held at the First Methodist Church, by Mrs. Martin Engwall, missionary of the American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society in the Belgian Congo and Mrs. Carol E. Dokes, religious and social worker of the Home Missions Council of North America, among migrant and defense workers of the Negro race.

Mrs. Engwall, who with her husband did missionary work in the Congo from 1923 to 1940, emphasized the importance of the home in Africa as well as in the United States. She said that the most important task facing missionaries in that area is the dignification of the home and the raising of the status of women.

"The women are expected to do much of the physical labor, including the raising of crops and the gathering of fuel. However, we must not make the mistake of thinking that they are basically different from us. Actually they have the same desires, the same likes and dislikes.

"The women are eager for scientific knowledge, and welcome our women teachers who visit the villages to instruct them in child care and health measures in the home. We write pamphlets and books in their dialect which are used in the schools and by the native women. For example, we have written a cook book whose recipes call only for native foods, and which tells about healthy diets and scientific methods of preparing food."

Mrs. Engwell stated that the church is making considerable progress in improving homes of that area.

Mrs. Dokes, who has recently been working as director of Christian Education and Religious Work at the League Island Housing Project in Philadelphia, said that she did not believe there would be a mass migration by those who came from the rural South north to work in war plants, back to their former homes.

"If these Negroes can get anything to do in this region," she said, "most of them want to remain here permanently, in spite of the fact that it has been difficult for them to adapt themselves to conditions in the North because of their lack of attitudes and aptitudes for industrial living."

Mrs. Dokes told of the work done by the Home Missions Council in housing units for Negroes, and said, "It is not just the material help which is needed, but also teaching them to change their habits, and giving them spiritual guidance. Often these latter helps are more important to them than the former."

These people, she continued, newcomers in their communities, have been more or less ostracized, and the church in many instances, faced with the opportunity for Christian work, has failed to take advantage of it because of lack of vision and facilities.

Tenants' Union And Rent Assessment Board

THE activities of tenants all over Lagos island and the mainland, ever since the idea of a union was first mooted in our columns, has given rise to great expectations. We have watched their movements from Yaba and Ebute Metta, the seat of the spade work, and the spread of unity to Lagos and have come to the conclusion that, barring unforeseen circumstances, there is bound to be much hope and prospect for tenants in the very near future.

But, much as the position, as we see it, is so hopeful, we nevertheless are convinced that sitting behind the fence and throwing over one's case across to the authorities inside cannot help as much. The tenants must also be inside the enclosure of the administration. They must be giving the opportunity of rubbing shoulders with the framers of their destiny and be offered the chance of laying their case, their problems and their difficulties in a tete-a-tete with the administrators of the future.

To put it in plain words, we are here clamouring for representation of the tenants' unions and other associated bodies, after they shall have been duly and legally constituted, on the Lagos Rent Assessment Board. This demand, we are convinced, is simply natural and we want it to be considered in that light.

After all, the board has been set up to seek the interests of both parties — landlords and tenants — but, primarily, it is to protect the interests of the latter against the unscrupulous exploitation of the former. So that, if we suggest representation of this sort, we are only asking for what we consider a right as distinct from a privilege. We would therefore ask all the newly constituted unions of tenants, after they shall have put their internal machinery into a perfectly working order, to consider this suggestion of ours seriously and think of approaching government, in the usual constitutional way, about it. Success in this will be a definite step forward to post-war amicable relationship between the landlord and the tenant.

Lagos Tenants Union Is Now Inaugurated

The inaugural meeting of all tenants resident on Lagos island came of very successfully on Thursday, February 22, in the committee room of the Glover Memorial Hall under the chairmanship of Mr G. Spencer.

The meeting was summoned by Messrs S Atedoghu and J. C. O. Lindsay.

In addressing the assembly, Mr Lindsay said that he and his colleague had for the past been studing the editorials and articles published in the West African Pilot on the possibility of forming a union of all tenants.

He said that housing problem in Lagos was getting from bad to worse and something should be done to remedy the rapidly deteriorating situation.

He gave his experience of how tenants had suffered many inconveniences from certain landlords who were, in many cases, void of all sympathies.

The speaker revealed how in some cases, certain landlords started the building of their houses with no money of their own but the advance payments paid for some months by would-be tenants.

In some cases he went on, prospective tenants, because of the advance payments demanded by their landlords, plunged themselves into debts from which they eventually found it most difficult to extricate themselves.

The question of housing in Lagos today, concluded Mr Lindsay, has not only brought financial deprivation but sickness and misery due to overcrowding.

Those present were advised to present a united front and the union, if formed, was not out to fight with landlords.

After other people had aired their views, the following resolution was moved by Mr M. Bolaji Mekagu:

"Be it resolved that, in view of the fact that the housing problem in Lagos is becoming burdensome, on tenants, this assembly should forthwith inaugurate a tenants union."

This was seconded by Mr E. A. Ige and all present unanimously agreed that the union be formed.

The convener of the meeting, Mr Lindsay, was nominated protem secretary and Mr G. Spencer, protem chairman.

An entrance fee of five shillings to be paid by five instalments was levied.

The following were elected committee members to formulate plans for the union:

Messrs S. Aladoghu, R. Oseni, E. A. Onoyunbo, R. W. Nugent, A. Aiyeola, A. Bayetugha, A. Sogbesan, B. Leigh, F. U. Okonkwo, M. O. Bakure, S. B. Mukoro and M. Batubo.

The president and secretary were to be ex-officio members of the committee.

The agenda of the first committee meeting would be:

(1) To make out aims and objects of the union and to draw up a constitution.

(2) Make out identity cards.

(3) Finance.

It was revealed that tenants at Ebute Metta had already formed a union and it was proposed that the two unions should, in the meantime, work hand in hand.

The meeting which opened at 6 p. m. came to a close at 8 p. m.

The Role Played By A Braggart

MR ROTIMI WILLIAMS is present General Secretary of the so-called "Nigerian Youth Movement." He is a B.A. degree holder from Cambridge and is a lawyer by profession. Armed with such academic and professional training much was expected from him. Since his assumption of office, he has been a woeful disappointment and his tenure of office is one of the worst in the chequered history of the so-called "Movement."

As soon as one comes in contact with him, one could size him up after an exchange of views, and after one has had the opportunity to check up his work. He is over six feet tall, by the way, and must weigh about 200 lb. or more — indeed, a human behemoth! In spite of his gigantic size and academic brilliance, he gives impression of being crafty and lazy when it comes to work which a national organization must naturally demand from its officials. Pomposity, vanity, verbosity, tactlessness—these are some of the weapons with which he serves "self-lessly."

Let us substantiate the above.

(1) When Mr Magnus Williams, a superior patriot to this political tyro, told the so-called "Movement" the honest truth, Rotimi Williams committed a faux pas by saying that Magnus Williams was not a financial member, even though, there are many people who are tagged "Comrade" when it suits the so-called "Movement" in spite of their not being financial.

(2) When 20 (twenty) "Comrades" "jammed" the Glover Memorial Hall, after Rotimi Williams had advertised the meeting in many issues of their so called "official organ," he was requested to affirm or deny what the Daily Comet intended to publish. As a lawyer, Rotimi Williams is expected to know the rules of dialectics. He should have refuted the statement, but instead, what was his reply? Not only was he without an answer but he shamelessly dubbed it a "bogus report."

We say that the pomposity, arrogance, egoism, and tactlessness of this inflated "leader" have made him to be so obsessed with an air of his own importance in the political setto in Nigeria that he had done the so-called "Youth Movement" great disservice, through his puerillity, buffoonery and lampoonery, as proved by the facts adduced above. Let him deny the FACTS.

It will be remembered that after a mass meeting (convened by the so called "Youth Movement") when the Hon. Jibril Martin was asked to give assurance that he would oppose the Minerals Bill — which he refused to give — Rotimi Williams, falsely and maliciously imputed to the person who made the suggestion an ulterior motive. He spoke about appealing to the "emotions" and "reason" as if this political greenhorn understood the significance of his utterances and acts in these respects.

For a person like that to be General Secretary of an organization which says that it believes in "self-less service" is to bamboozle the public. The regime of Rotimi Williams will go down as one of the worst periods in the history of an organization which Dr Vaughan founded, because it revived artful twisting of facts and political chicanery.

If the so-called "Youth Movement" is to be likened to a "dead horse" then officials like Rotimi Williams are in position to appreciate the cause of the "death" of the so-called "Youth Movement" because by their fruits ye shall know them. Any attempt by Rotimi Williams to "start something" will be mercilessly retaliated and repelled.